

# Norway expels Iranian diplomat

OSLO (R) — Norway said Friday it was expelling an Iranian diploment in a move it said was unrelated to the shooting last year of the Norwegian publisher of Salman Rushdie's controversial book "The Satanic Verses." Consul Mohammad Movahed "is not wanted in Norway for activities incompatible with his diplomatic status," the foreign ministry said in a brief statement. It said the Iranian ambassador had been called to the ministry on Friday and told Mr. Movahed had 10 days to leave. The ministry gave no reasons for the expulsion but said it was not ried to the attempted killing last October of William Nygaard, the Norwegian publisher of Mr. Rushdie's novel. A gunman shot and scriously wounded Mr. Nygaard, 50, head of Norwegian publishers Aschehoug, three times from behind outside his home in a leafy Oslo suburb last October. Mr. Nygaard has said! e is convinced Iran was behind the attack. But Norwegian police have no firm leads and the Iranian embassy has repeatedly denied any involvement. "We see this expulsion as an isolated case," foreign ministry spokesman Invard Havnen said.

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AMMAN SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1994, SHAWWAL 14, 1414

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### Talal Al Hassan meets Musa

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CAIRO (Petra) - Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Talal Amr Musa with whom he discussed bilateral relations and means to further promote hem and the coming meeting of the Joint-Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Committee. They also discussed the latest development regarding the peace process, Arab and regional affairs and the agenda of Arah League council's meeting to be held on Saturday.

### Qadhafi meets Palestinlan dissidents

TRIPOLI (AFP) - Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi discussed Friday the situation in the occupied territories with representatives of 10 Palestinian groups opposed to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord. A statement issued by the Damascus-hased opposition said the meeting here also dealt with other Arah and international issues. The groups called on Arabs to break the international embargo against Libya and said the PLO-Israel peace talks launched at the 1991 Madrid conference were a "capitulation."

## Yemeni Jews surrender to police

YEHUD, Israel (AFP) -Dozens of armed Yemeni Jews surrendered Friday after Israeli police surrounded the isolated house near Tel Aviv where they had barricaded themselves in, police said. The siege, which began in Yehud on Thursday, ended when the authorities agreed to set up a parliamentary commission of inquiry into the fate of around 1,000 Yemeni Jewish children who disappeared when their parents emigrated to Israel in the early 1950s. The Yemeni Jews, followers of Rabbi Uzi Meshulam Azulay who heads the "mishkenot ohalim" sect, came out with their weapons. Police noted their identities. but made no arrests. Rabbi Meshulam has called on his followers in Yehud village to "kill or be killed."

## Kordofan relieves food shortages

KHARTOUM (R) - Food shortages bave been overcome in Sudan's northern Kordofan state and people are no longer fleeing the area, a state newspaper reported on Friday. Government-owned Al Nasr quoted the western state's finance minister, Bahakier Mohammad Al Tom, as saving the government had resolved the problem by buying 200 million Sudanese pounds (\$500,000) worth of sorghum from eastern Sudan. He said there was no bunger and mass movement of people. Last year the former commissioner of Sodari province in northern Kordofan said dronght and food shortages were forcing people to flee to the capital Khartoum.

# Iran investigates plane crash

NICOSIA (R) - A team of Iranian experts sent to the dispnted Azeri enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh has begun investigating the cause of an Iranian plane crash that killed 32 people there last week, Iran's IRNA news agency said Friday. It did not say when the team, which includes air force and Foreign Ministry experts, was expected to report its findings. A military transport C-130 Hercules, flying from Moscow to Tehran, crashed near Karabakh's capital Stepanakert on March 17, killing all 32 people on board. They included relatives of Iranian diplomats based in Moscow.

# Kuwaiti group buys share in Lebanon bank

BEIRUT (R) - A Kuwaiti-Lebanese group of husinessmen bought the small north Lehanon-based Trade Bank and decided to raise its \$3.5 million capital by \$8 million. the bank's new chairman said.

# Israel sees self-rule Satzan Al Hassan, received at his residence in Cairo the Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa with whom he die says no decision yet

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI officials said Friday peace talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were likely to resume in Cairo on Tuesday but PLO officials said no agreement was reached to resume the talks.

A senior Israeli official who spoke on condition of anonymity said: "It is likely that the talks on Gaza-Jericho will be resumed on Tuesday... there is no agreement on the resumption of the talks but as a result of the Cairo meetings it is likely.

Negotiations on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, the first phase of a September Israel-PLO peace deal, were nearing completion when settler Baruch Goldstein shot dead dozens of Palestinians in Hebron in the West Bank exactly four weeks ago.

The PLO suspended the talks after the killings.

PLO and Israeli negotiators ended a round of talks aimed at reviving the Gaza-Jericho negotiations in Cairo early on Friday. Those talks focus on setting security arrangements in Hebron.

The PLO's head delegate, Nabil Shaath, said more work was needed. He said if contacts between the sides produced agreement on Hebron by Tuesday, negotiators would automatically tackle implementing Gaza-Jericho self-rule.

"I think that the good news the occupied territories.

By Lamis K. Andoni

ISRAEL HAS agreed to the

deployment of a lightly

armed 50-man Norwegian

observer unit and an equal

number of a Palestinian police force in the city of Hebron but the Palestine Li-

beration Organisation (PLO)

is seeking to expand the unit to two multi-national batta-

bons including senior Egyp-

Palestinian proposals when the talks, which were ad-

journed in Cairo yesterday.

resume after the two delega-

tions deliberate with their

The PLO is also awaiting a

response to the deployment

of a 8,000-9,000 Palestinian

police force in Jericho and the

Gaza Strip. PLO officials in Tunis ex-

pected the Palestinian force

to cross from Jordan and

Egypt by April 13, the agreed

two respective leaderships.

Israel will respond to the

tian officers.

is that the Palestinians agreed to resume the Gaza-Jericho talks on Tuesday with no conditions but they will start the negotiations after they will accomplish the arrangement in Hehron," Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman told Reuters.

There is no guarantee the sides will reach agreement on additional protection for Palestinians in Hebron.

"I would say we have made significant progress but there are several questions that could not settled," Dr. Shaath told reporters in Cairo. In Tunis, a close aide to

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said the PLO has not yet decided whether to resume the negotiations with Israel. Marwan Kanafani said PLO-Israel discussions set to resume in Cairo next week "do not

constitute a resumption of the negotiations." Mr. Kanafani said the PLO was continuing its contacts with all concerned parties, including the United States, Russia and Norway, to obtain answers to demands made by

the PLO in the wake of the

Hebron massacre. A resumption of the autonomy talks "depends on positive" and practical answers which the Israelis must provide," concerning implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolntion 904, which allowed for protection of Palestinians in

upon date for Israeli with-

drawal from the Gaza Strip

Israel has suggested speed-ing up the withdrawal in re-

turn for resumption of

Palestinian-Israeli negotia-

tions, but the PLO wanted to

get security guarantees that

will end the curfew in Hebron

before going back to the

ing the actual beginning of

the implementation will be

delayed for two or three

weeks, but we cannot resume

negotiations without seeing

real change in the situation

on the ground especially in Hebror," a PLO official said.

According to Tunis-based PLO officials, Israel has not officially conceded to de-

mands to evict 450 Israeli

settlers from the centre of

give a word or any promises

regarding the settlers," said

"The Israelis could not

The way things are mov-

negotiating table:

and Jericho.

Israeli officials, declining to be named, said negotiators General Amnon Shahak and Uri Savir had reported to Mr. Rabin on "the progress made in the Egyptian capital."

"We will go back to Cairo on Tuesday and this time we will be able to conclude," Gen. Shahak, the deputy chief-ofstaff, said on his return after two days of talks on boosting security for the Palestinians of

Israeli Foreign Minister Shi-mon Peres told Israel Radio the Cairo talks had yet to reach agreement on security arrangements for Hebron but added: "It is not over yet. There has been important progress."
Mr. Peres said gaps still re-

mained regarding the number of Palestinian police to be stationed in Hebron and who would have ultimate anthority

But he added the fact the sides were meeting — even if still debating bow to resume the Gaza-Jericho negotiations — meant the peace process was salvaged from the Hebron slaughter.

"In essence the fact the talks are back on track and we can make progress is the important thing," Mr. Peres said.

Israel's Haaretz newspaper

said Mr. Rabin on Thursday

ment was considering specific measures. PLO officials said

that the Israeli negotiators

Israel, the officials said,

will be studying a suggestion,

initially put forward by Nor-

way, that it take unilateral

measures without prior pub-

lic announcements, but the

PLO prefers that a third par-

ty, most probably Norway.

ensure follow-up of whatever

process the Israeli govern-

ment decides to start regard-

ing the settlers.
Meanwhile, PLO Chair-

man Yasser Arafat, who has

personally insisted on the

participation of semor Egyp-

tian officers in the foreign

observing force, is satisfied

with Israel's acceptance of

(Continued on page 10)

will act as a guarantor to

refused to elaborate.

approved a proposal by the Israeli negotiators to the Palestinians on international observers and a Palestinian PLO wants large observer unit

# King 'satisfied' by results of visits to Oman, Qatar

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein is satisfied that his visits to Oman and Qatar last week were positive and would contribute to efforts to close Arab ranks and restore Arab solidarity, official sources said

The King's visit to Qatar was his first since relations between Jordan and Gulf states were strained in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Oman has always maintained close relations with Jordan and differing approaches to resolving the crisis triggered hy the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait did not seriously damage Amman-Muscat relations. The King visited Oman twice after the end of the Gulf war which ended the Iraqi occupation of soon. Kuwait in February 1991.

The sources said the King, who returned home on Thursday, discussed the idea of con-

# Qatari emir thanks King

KING HUSSEIN Friday received a cable from Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, the emir oif Qatar, thanking him for the cable be sent after leaving Doha Thursday on the conclusion of a two-day visit to Qatar. "With appreciation I have received your cable while you were leaving Doha following the conclusion of your kind visit during which we were happy to meet you and exchange views with you on issues of concern to our countries and the Arah Nation," Sheikh Khalifa said in his cable. "As I express my gratitude for your true hrotherly relations, I express towards you the same feelings, stressing our keenness to unify the ranks of our Arah Nation, to protect higher Arah interests and defend just Arah causes and achieve prosperity for its peoples," be said. Sheikh Khalifa wished King Hussein continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prospetity.

vening an Arab summit during his talks with Sultan Qaboos of Oman in Salalah and with Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani of Qatar in Doha, but no immediate progress was visible in convening such a conference

However, "His Majesty King Hussein came back satisfied that his visits were positive" both in a bilateral context

and on a pan-Arah level, said a senior official.

"Jordan has always been interested in ensuring good relations among the Arab states," said another source. "As such, it is very much interested in seeing Arab heads of state meet and exchange views in a positive atmosphere."

(Continued on page 10)

# Malaysian sultan visits touristic sites

AMMAN (Petra) - Sultau Azlan Muhebeddine Shah of Malaysia and his wife spent Friday touring touristic sites around the Kingdons.

The sultan and his wife, who arrived in Amman Thursday, visited the Roman amphitheatre in downtown Amman, Jerash in the north and Mount Nebo near Mada-

They were hriefed by Director General of the Antiquities Department Safwan Al Tell on the importance of these sites as well as their historical signifi-

The sultan and his wife, who are accompanied on the visit by several members of the Malaysian royal family, were received upon arrival Thursday by His Majesty King Hussein.

Also present at the airport to receive the guests were His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, Her Royal Highness Princess Tagnreed, several royal family members, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and senior officials,

King Hussein Thursday evening hosted a dinner in honour of the Malaysian leader and his wife and the accompanying delegation.

The banquet was attended by Prince Mohammad, Princess Taghreed, royal family members, Sharif Zeid and his wife as well as members of the visiting delegation.

At the banquet Bing Hunsein conferred upon Gultun Azlan the Al Hussein Ben. Al. Medal, the highest Jordanian medal, and conferred upon the sultan's wife the Al Nahda ledal of the First Order.

Sultan Shah is scheduled to bold talks with King Hussein on bilateral relations, means of enhancing them and issues of common interest.

### in Hebron including Egyptians Clinton stresses stand one PLO official. on Jerusalem unchanged The Israelis have implied, however, that the govern-

WASHINGTON (USIA) — President Bill Clinton has stressed that his position on the status of Jerusalem has not

changed. As he was leaving the White House around noon, Mr. Clinton was asked by a reporter about what he said about Jerusalem to the presidents of ma-

Jewish leaders told reporters that Mr. Clinton bad described

a "united Jernsalem" as Israel's capital. Asked about those reported remarks and about a 1992 campaign statement in which Mr. Clinton called Jerusalem "an undi-vided city" and "the eternal capital" of Israel, State Department spokesman Michael McCurry quoted from public remarks the president made at the conclusion of his meering with Jewish leaders, asserting there has been no change in

### jor American Jewish organisations with whom he met earlier that morning. He responded: "I told them what I've always told you in public. I'll tell you the exact words I used: I

said, my position bas not changed on that issue... So I have made it clear that the United States has not changed

Mr. Clinton's position on the

(Continued on page 10)

# More LF officials detained in sweep

BEIRUT (Agencies) - The government sought Friday to quell fears it planned to restrict political freedoms as troops made fresh arrests in a crackdown on right-wing Christians implicated in a church bomb-

Army soldiers, backed hy armoured personnel carriers, searched motorists and checkthe northeast.

rocket-propelled grenade launchers and machine-guns, staged foot patrols and took up positions on corners of major street intersection and bridges.

(LF), which the government outlawed Wednesday after its implication in the Feb. 27 bombing of a Maronite Catholic Church that killed 10 worshippers and wounded 60. The Lebanese Forces were

the Christians' main militia in the 1975-90 civil war. The group voluntarily disarmed in 1991 as part of a government plan to demilitarise Beirut and its environs

Fuad Malek, was arrested Wednesday on Thursday, troops picked up one of Mr. Malek's aides, Elie Abi and an aide to the Lebanese Forces spokesman, security officials The government outlawed

the Lebanese Forces Wednesday after examining Magistrate Joseph Freiha issued warrants for the arrest of nine people suspected in the church bombing. He said they were members of the Lebanese forces.

Five are in custody and four on the run, two in Australia and one in Canada. Party chief Samir Geagea, who denied his group's in-

volvement in the church bombing, has been holed up for almost three weeks at his headquarters in the mountains northeast of Beirut. Meanwhile, Lehanese politi-

cians and media protested against a ban on private news

Former Prime Minister Selim Hoss demanded the government drop the media ban, which it says is temporary, to allow proper discussion by parhament of a promised new

# Woman, child killed in Israeli shelling

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) - Israeli forces opened up with artillery on South Lebanon on Friday killing a woman and her young daughter after guerrillas killed three of their militia allies, security sources

They said the woman and girl were killed when artillery shells slammed into the village of J'baa in Iglim Al Toufah ridge, a bastion of resistance fighters north of Israel's South ehanon occupation zone. Israeli and allied gunners un-

leashed a beavy bomhardment on the strategic ridge after guerrillas killed three Israelibacked South Lebanon Army (SLA) milinamen and captured two in attacks on their positions in South Lebanon, the security sources said. The guerrillas attacked two

SLA posts near the southern town of Jezzine and took at least one of them. Hizbollah (Party of God) said its forces attacked seven

SLA posts at dawn and took

two of them, destroying three SLA tanks. Hizbollah said it captured

SLA posts at the villages of Saidon and Deir Shkaoine near the town of Jezzine, 25 kilometres east of the southern port of Sidon. Jezzine stands in a finger of

territory controlled by Israel and its ally that juts north from the border zone. The sources said the guerril-

las responded to the israeli shelling by rocketing the town of Marjayoun, where the SLA has its headquarters, and the village of Aishiven near Jen-Under a U.S. brokered deal

that ended a week long Israeli blitz on south Lebasco less July, Hizbollah agreed to helt. Katyusha rocket attacks into northern Israel in return for the Jewish state agreeing not to target civilians in South Leba-

Two schoolchildren and a man were killed in the position Monday

# **Arab Bank presents** budget, final account

AMMAN — The Arab Bank Shareholders general 🕏 assembly held its 64th meeting Friday at the Arab Bank Building in Amman under the chairmanship of Board of Director Chairman Abdul Majeed Shoman and in the presence of representatives of the comptroller of companies at the Ministry of Industry and Trade and a group of the Arab Bank shareholders in Abdul Majeed Shomen various Arab countries.



The meeting discussed the general budget, the final account, the board of director's report published inside.

# Settler kills Palestinian

Hebrou.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian truck driver died after being shot by a Jewish settler Friday near Beit Jibrin in southern Israel, police announced.

The 42-year-old gunman fired sbots from a car at the truck and then fled the scene, hut he was later arrested by police in the southern Israeb town of Kyriat Gat. He was from the Adora set-

tlement near Hebron in the occupied West Bank. The victim, 34, died in hospital in Ashkelon from sto-

mach wounds. He was returning home to Hebron, scene of a massacre of dozens of Palestinian worshippers by a Jewish settler exactly

one month ago. Police caught the gunman after a tip-off from an anonymous caller. The settler refused to ex-

plain the motives for the attack, police said. The army on Friday lifted the curfew it imposed on Hebron, military officials

But the curfew was maintained around two pockets of settlers in the town.

The army sent in reinforcements to prevent unrest breaking out with the end of the curfew, which was decided by the military commander in charge of the West Bank. General Dani Yatom, the officials said. The curfew was imposed im-

mediately after the Feb. 25 massacre. But the Jews of the town were not affected. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who is also defence minister, recognised Wednesday that he faced "a dilemma

maintaining the curfew on 120,000 Palestinians because of some 400 Jews." Nearly two million Palestimians in the occupied territories went on strike on Friday to mark the one month passed

since the Hebron mosque mas-Israeli officials tightened security in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to guard against reprisal attacks and for the Jewish Passover holiday, Israel

Radio said. Tempers in Hebron were

further raised this week when the army rocketed Arab apartment buildings in the heart of Hebron during a two-day siege in which three Palestinian activists were killed. (see page Troops wounded at least 35

Palestinians in clashes in the occupied territories on Thursday, Arab sources said. Israel Radio said 10 Israeli soldiers and civilians were also lightly wounded in clashes. Army patrols through Ramallah and Al Bireh

announced indefinite curfews and threatened to shoot viola-In the Gaza Strip, the strike call was announced from mosques. Stores were shuttered

and transportation stopped. Meanwhile, a Palestinian inquiry into the Hebron mosque massacre will conclude that Israeli soldiers joined the Jewish settler in firing at worshippers, the inquiry commission's chairman said Friday.

ed identification documents in Christian neighbourhoods of Beirut and the hinterland to Commandos, armed with

The target of the army campaign is the Lebanese Forces

# Israeli troops use children's hospital as Hebron fire base

HEBRON. Occupied West Bank (AP) — "The soldier scared me and made me cry," four-year-old Nuha Zreikat recalled of the army's takeover of the children's hospital where she was being treated for meningitis.

"They stole my chair and ran

A half-dozen soldiers carrying automatic rifles kicked open the front door of the Mohtasseb Children's Hospital about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday. They smatched chairs from rooms, threatened staff and fired rockets from the rooftop in a two-day seige against sus-pected hideout of the Palestinian activists. Four activists and a bystander were killed. witnesses said Thursday. "I told them, 'this is a chil-

dren's hospital, where are you going?" one of them pushed me away with his rifle," said Tewfiq Jabari, the hospital guard.

Nurse Etidal Arjan said she was on the first floor of the three-storey hospital when sol-diers, started knocking loudly on the door.

"They said, 'if you don't open up, we will shoot'," she recalled. "When we opened the door, they shouled for us to get out of the way." Soldiers fired weapons from

a section of the roof over an unused wing of the hospital,

The United States is calling on

Algeria to resolve its problems

without resorting to abuses of

buman rights, and is reaffirm-

ing the importance it attaches

to the protection of human

The United States "should

be consistent in applying the

values that we believe in across.

the board in our relations with

ris, acting assistant secretary of

state for Near Eastern affairs.

"Human Rights is at the

told the House Foreign Affairs

Subcommittee on Africa,

core today of the administra-

tion's approach to Algeria, and

I think that our concern that

the Algerian government act in

accordance with the rule of

law, that it respect human

rights — despite the difficult

situation that it's dealing with

is a message that they have

Mr. Parris was questioned

by subcommittee chairman

Harry A. Johnston (Democrat

of Florida), who in remarks

opening the hearing described

Algeria as "a nation in the

midst of a severe political and

economic crisis... gripped in an

escalating cycle of violence in

which the government and the

opposition attack each other

Discussing the question of

Algeria's future, Mr. Parris

said that "events suggest that

there is a large element of

Algerian public opinion which

believes that Islamic principles

have to be a factor in Algerian

continued, "will have to be

dealt with. And the way in

which it is dealt with over the

months ahead. I think will

have an important impact on

the role that (it) will play in

Algena in the future, and in

what kind of a place Algeria

Above all, Mr. Parris said.

"to the extent that that process

"That element," Mr. Parris

heard very elearly from us.'

Mr. Parris said.

constantly."

political life.

will be."

Tuesday.

other countries," Mark R. Par-

rights around the world.

main wing. Relatives and doctors said the gunfire was deafening, terrifying the 25 child patients.

Major General Dany Yatom, com-mander of Israeli forces in the West Bank, defended the army's actions, saying the soldiers did not take over the whole hospital, using only the

"The roof of the hospital overlooks the terrorist house, and it was perfectly natural, without harming the hospital or any other house in the region, togain the advantage on the terrorists," be said.

Jamila Zreikat said her

daughter was getting an intravenous treatment in one arm, which was resting on a chair, when a soldier came in and grabbed the chair. 'I went back to Nuha's

room, and she was screaming and crying," she said. "I lost my mind and ran to the doctor

Nuha, whose eyes were puffy, was dressed in a white T-shirt. She was interviewed at Mokassed hospital in Jerusalem, where she and three other patients had been transferred from Hebron on Wednesday

Back in Hebron, Zuhaira Maragtan, whose six-week-old son Hassan was being treated for pneumonia, said: "The hospital shook every time the

of defining Islamie objectives

takes place in the context of

violence, of repressive actions

by the government - in many

cases which ignore basic rules

of law - you get a more

troubling result than if the gov-

ernment can find means of

demonstrating its willingess to

reach out, broaden the dia-

logue, return to the electoral

pracess, make the economic

reforms necessary to provide

the basic needs of the people."

a tendency within all of the

North African countries, to

doctrine to deal with some of

the problems of modern

"I think it has been particu-

larly acute in the way that it

evolved in Algeria because of a

combination of historical and

cultural factors which don't ex-

These factors, he said, in-

ist in... Tunisia or Morocco."

cluded "the relative absence of

a middle class in Algeria; the

way that it achieved decol-

onisation through a long,

bloody civil war; its resort to

status to economic principles

- a collectivisation of agricul-

lure - steps which created an

extraordinarily fertile ground

Mr. Parris added that while

"people in Morocco and Tuni-

sia and in other parts of the

Islamic world are... aware of

the general issue of a more

activist form of Islam, it would

be a mistake to see it in pre-

cisely the same terms for each

Asked if he agreed with

observers of Human Rights

Wateh who have reported

widespread abuses of human

rights by the government and opposition in Algeria, Mr. Par-

ris said that the State Depart-

ment's own human rights re-

port, issued annually in Janu-

ary, had been straightforward

about the situation in Algeria.

Mr. Parris said, is "a very

detailed description of the hu-

man rights situation in Algeria.

The department's report.

of these countries."

for extremist receptivity."

societies."

resort to traditional Islamic

Mr. Parris noted that there is

army started shooting. I took my child and ran from one corner to the other in fear." Dr. Bassam Badr said the experience could have a lasting impact on the children and

their parents. This will have repercussions on the mothers and the children later. This is something you can't see so soon,"

The siege also hurt medical medical supplies, since troops put the city under curfew and sealed off the neighbourhood around the fighong.

Dr. Hisham Abu Gharbiya, the medical director of the hospital, said the hospital bad run out of hydradon solution for diarrhoea as well as antibiotics to treat miningitis.

The use of the hospital roof as a fire base was strongly protested by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the International Commit-tee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as a violation of the Geneva conventions on the treatment of civilians in occupied areas.
"We made several interven-

tions concerning Israeli army presence in the hospital which is a clear violation of international humanitarian law," said Manuel Bessler, the head of the ICRC delegation in Jerusalem. He said soldiers at the scene refused ICRC requests

I doo't think any objective reading of that document

would suggest we're pulliog any punches." Nor, be added,

would "the statement that I

Mr. Johnston noted possible

"inconsistencies" in U.S. fore-

ign policy with regard to re-

ported human rights abuses. He cited as an example U.S. actions after a Nigerian government set-aside of elections a year ago.

U.S. reaction to that "trici-

dent, Mr. Johnston said, was

to cut off International Milit-

ary Education and Training

(IMET) funds and the institu-

tion of other restrictions. But

when Algeria took similar ac-

tion and halted elections two

years ago, Mr. Johnston

argued, the United States took

no action to cut off IMET

funds nort to cease its agri-

cultural credit programmes in

Algeria. Mr. Parris responded, "We

think this is a consistent and

entirely appropriate element of

our overall approach" to the

He explained that the IMET

funding to Algeria is only "a

third of what it was in '92," and

underscored the U.S. belief

that it is important to contioue

"modest" IMET funding to

Algeria, because the program-

me is "an important window

into (the military) an institu-

tion which — for better or

worse - has been the arbiter

of political power in Algeria

Moreover, Mr. Parris said

the wbole purpose of the prog-

ramme is "to focus a small

number of Algerian military

officers each year on issues

which are at the core of our

approach to Algeria today: hu-

man rights, civilian control of

the military, democratisation."

By halting agricultural or commodity lending, he said, "Americans would be burt in

the first instance... we do not

believe we would bave a signi-

ficant impact on Algeria's

course of action."

Yesterday's high temperatur man 20. Agaba 24 Mamiday

Amman 40 per cent. Again

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Affairs Hans van den Broek told reporters. "We hope very much that the other side, the Turkish Cypriot side, will be prepared Human rights at core of U.S. to reconsider very carefully these proposals," he added. Mr. Van den Broek spoke Algeria policy, says official

after a meeting with Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides. Cyprus has been divied since 1974 when Turkish troops occupied its northern third after a coup in Nicosia engineered by a military junta

**EU** fears

Cyprus

collapse of

peace efforts

NICOSIA (R) — Peace talks between Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots could suffer a

serious setback unless the Tur-

kish Cypriots reconsidered

their position on U.N .-

proposed confidence building

measures, a European Union

(EU) official said on Friday. "We hope the Turkish Cyp-

riot side should try to agree on

the set of confidence-building

measures because otherwise

we are afraid it will be a very

serious setback in the peace negotiations," EU Commis-sioner for External Political

then ruling Greece. The proposed measures focus on the reopening of Nicosia airport and Varosha resort town, both disused since 1974, under U.N. supervisioo as a prelude to an overall

settlement.
U.N. envoy Toe Clark, who launched the ralks last month; left the island on Wednesday without securing agreement from the Turkish Cypriot lead-

ership on the package. Rauf Denktash, leader of the breakaway Turkish state in the north which is recognised only by Turkey, said on Thursday the measures favoured the Greek Cypriots. U.N. Secretary General

hopes to report progress io bis report on Cyprus to the Security Council later this week. Mr. Van den Broek also referred separately to the island's bid to become a full

member of the EU.

Boutros Gbali bas said he still

"We have set preparations in motion and (application) is now taking its course, and then in January we will reassess the island's political situation and the council of ministers will decide how to proceed further," he said.

We have to make clear that the aspiration of Cyprus to become an EU member cannot simply be put off because of the political problem ... but one should also understand that a de facto division of the island creates, of course, the necessary complications," he

He stressed that the EU would not make the island's aspiration for membership hostage only to progress in the political process. Asked to comment on the U.N. Security Council's deci-

sion to accept Turkey's offer to send troops to war-torn Bosnia when it still maintains over 30,000 occupation troops in northern Cyprus, he said:

# Turkey plans to send 2,700 troops to Bosnia

ANKARA (AP) - Turkey said Thursday it will contribute 2.700 soldiers to a United Nations pratection force in Bosnia, an announcement that set off immediate protest from Bosnian Serbs.

The U.N. Security Council on Wednesday approved Turkey's participation in the U.N. mission. The decision allows Turkish troops to return to the former Yugoslavia where the Ottoman Turks ruled for 400 years until the last century.

On Thursday, Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzie said any deployment of Turkisb peacekeepers io Bosnia would spread the war through

"If Turkish soldiers come to the Muslim-Croat state, we will demand troops from... Yoguslavia" to deploy on territory held by Bosnian Serbs, he told his assembly, meeting in their self-proclaimed headquarters in Pale, Bosnia.

Bulgarian President Zbelyu Zhelev also objected to the Turkish deployment.

The Balkan countries are burdeoed by their past and any involvement of their in former Yugoslavia... can awake old suspicions and rivalries," Mr. Zhelev said in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, Bulgarian state radio reported Thursday.

Dr. Ghali bad proposed that Turkey, which once ruled most of the Balkans and bas open sympathies for Bosnia's Muslims, contribute 1.000 peacekeeping troops in the former Yugoslav republic. The United Nations is seeking about 11,000 more military personnel for Bosnia, Offers so far total 4,250, excluding Turkey.

Greeks, Serbs and Bulgarians object to the presence of the Turkish troops in Bosnia. They all fooght wars of independeoce against Turkey at the end of 19th century. Turkish Foreign Minister

Hikmet Cetin told reports in Bucharest, Romania, that the troops will include 1,200 infan-

Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat-Ataman said the troops... would be dispatched afterni severalitissies :- tike where ; they will be posted - are: finalised between the United Nations and the Turkish armed forces. He did not provide a

If Turkish troops do join the U.N. force, they could also be deployed at U.N. headquarters in Zagreb, Croatia, freeing peacekeepers oow there to go to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia was never a part of the Ottoman empire.

Greece said the U.N. Security Council's decisioo to accept Torkish peacekeepers in Bosnia was harmful to the peace process given Turkey's past domination of the region.

"It is a mistake. I think that often the historical roots of problems are misunderstood," Foreign Minister Carolos Papoulias told reporters, in

"And while we try to satisfy logisocal demands we fail to appreciate a very important element: The buman psycbology and the framework in which Turkish troops will operate in Bosnia," he said.

'Instead of helping peace, I think that we, harm the peace Drocess.

Greece lobbied strenuously to prevent Turkish troops from serving as peacekeepers in Bosnia and argued that no country neighbouring the former Yugoslavia, nor any country with historie ties to the combatants, should send troops into the region. Greece and Serbia fought

wars of liberation after centuries of Turkish occupation and share a long friendsbip and the Christian Orthodox religion. "We created a Balkan front

comprising Greece, Bulgaria and Romania against the sending of Turkish troops," Mr. Papoulias said. But of course, these gentle-

that take decisions, did not take into account the serious arguments and positions of the Balkan countries." Although Greece had hinted in the past the it, too, might

send peackeepers to Bosnia if Turkey's offer were accepted, Mr. Papoulias said Greece would not do so. "You know that our princi-

ple... is not to send Greek troops to Bos: —Herzegovina," he said before flying to the mortherit Greek city of loanuma for an informal. weekend meeting of the European Union's foreign minis-

# Arab and Jewish children attend Passover event

NEW YORK (AP) - Jenine Ennab is a Muslim Arab. Etao Merel is Jewish. Yet at a model seder-to promote understanding, the children agreed on most things, including this: parsley dipped in salt water is yucky. The freckle-faced boy in the

rainbow-eoloored yarmulke and the dark-haired girl next to him simultaneously crinkled their noses and stuck out their tongues after sampling one of the ritual foods eaten at the passover seder. The week-long holiday, which commemorates the deliverance of the ancient Hebrews from slavery in Egypt, began Saturday night.
"I definitely didn't like

that," nine-year-old Jenine said about the parsley io salt water, which represents the tears the Jewish people shed in slavery. "It was, you know, bitter," said II-year-old Etan, "It stinks."

Thursday's seder at a kosher restaurant in Manbattan broogbt together 17 Arabs and Jewish children ages nine to 15 at a time when relations between the two groups are especially tense both in New York and the Middle East.

Just days after a Brooklynborn Jewish settler in the Israeli-occupied West Bank

massacred Muslim worshippers at a mosque in Hebroo late last month, a gunman opeoed fire on a van of hasidic students on the Brooklyn Bridge, killing one and wounding three. A Lebanese immigrant was arrested and charged in that shootiog, though the motive remains unclear. The mock seder was spon-

sored by the New York-based Foundation for Ethnic Understanding and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimioation Committee. In past years, the foundation has sponsored seders with hispanie, Black and Asian ebildren "These are two groups that

do not have much of an opportunity to interact and that's why we oeed to break down the walls and teach each other's values and traditions," said the host, Rabbi Marc

"It's a start, a way to open the door and help the children learn a bit about each other," said the Anti-Discrimination Committee's Jeanine Sbama.

During the service, the children sang Jewish songs, sipped grape juice from wine goblets and recited a key part of the seder "The Four Questions" in Arabie, English and Hebrew.

# **NEWS IN BRIEF**

# Norway willing to send Hebron observers

OSLO (R) - Norway reiterated willingness oo Friday to help revive a stalled peace deal betweeo Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) by sending observers to the troubled West Bank town of Hebron. "If the partners agreed to ask Norway, we'd be prepared to stretch a long way to meet a request," foreign ministry spokesman Ingvard Havnen said. He said the PLO and Israel would first bave to agree on the size and role of any observer force. Norway bas previously said it would be willing to send observers to the occupied territories. Oslo is also providing thousands of uniforms for a planned Palestiman police force for the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jerieho.

# 'Missing Israelis possibly alive in Bekaa Valley'

TEL AVIV (AP) — The father of a missing Israeli soldier said Thursday be bas information that his soo and two other Israelis are alive in east Lebanon's Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley. "We have information from a few Lebanese sources," Yona Baumel told Israel Radio. "There is a cross-cheek of this informatioo." Mr. Baumel's son Zachary Baomel, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz disappeared after a tank battle with the Syrians in 1982 during Israel's invasion of Lebanon. Asked if he had reports that the three were alive and in the Bekaa Valley, Mr. Baumel said yes, but added that perbaps it was better if be did not elaborate. Israel says a fourth serviceman, Ron Arad, may be alive and in the hands of Iranian Revolutionary Guards, also based in the Bekaa Valley. The two other missing soldiers, Yosef Fink and Rahamim Alsheikh are believed to have died after their capture io 1986 by Hizbollah. Their bodies, however, bave oot been recovered. Mr. Baumel said that since a Jewish settler killed dozens of Palestinians in the Hebron mosque last month, information oo the missing Israelis had been stifled and urged the Israeli government to make getting the soldiers back a priority. In January, a U.S. congressional delegation went to Damascus to try and determine the fate of the missing Israelis after Syrian President Hafez Al Assad agreed to help.

# Syrian soldier 'seeks asylum' in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) - A Syrian soldier snuck into Israel two days ago to demand political asylum, claiming mistreatment in the Syrian army, police said Thursday. The 20-year-old soldier from the Syrian village of Deir Al Bustan was stopped by Israeli soldiers after crossing into northern Israel on Tuesday. Soldiers handed the Syrian over to police and oo Thursday the. magistrate's court in the northern town of Acre ordered the soldier beld for 15 days for questioning. The Syrian, whose name was not released, told police that he was drafted into the Syrian army's special commando forces in January 1993 and decided to flee to Israel after being refused leave for the 'Eid Al Fitr boliday earlier this month. Police sources said that Israel intends to deport the sordier after his detention is over. Because the Syrian has threatened suicide if returned to Syria. Israel is trying to find a European country to grant him asylum, they said. In October 1989, a Syrian MiG fighter pilot defected with his MiG-23 plane to Israel. Syria has sought his return. Also Thursday, Israel Radio reported Israel has been holding for two weeks a Lebanese youth caught during an infiltration attempt. The report said the youth, a member of Nayef Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and two other Lebanese had intended to carry out attacks against Israelis.

# Gunmen kill three in Istanbul and the second

ISTANBUL (AP) - Gunmen oo Thursday attacked a coffee bouse filled with Muslim fundamentalist party supporters, killing three people and wounding 12, news reports said. Four gunmeo fired automatic weapons and threw hand grenades at the cafe on the city's outskirts, the Anatolia News Agency, said. Supporters of the fundamentalist Welfare Party were bolding a meeting at the time 'he S' - Television channel. said. There were no immediate ela. . s of responsibility. A leftist underground guerrilla group ev Sol (revolutionary left) and the illegal Kurdish Labour Tarty (PKK) are active io Istanbul. In southeastern Sanliuft. v ce gunn in hurled hand grenades into a cafe in the town of Ceylanpinar used by supporters of the ceotre-right True Path Party, injuring three people. There bave been attacks on marty offices throughout Turkey, where tension is running language fore nations. local elections Sunday. Also Thursday, troops killed 12 kurdisb separatist guerrillas in four clashes in the east, Anatolia said. The clashes occurred in Bitlis and Divarbakir provinces in the southeast and in the provinces of Agri and Erzurum further north. The PKK bas threatened local candidates with death unless they withdraw from the race. Several candidates have been killed and political party offices attacked.

# Sheikh appeals for church help to find Kuwaitis

LONDON (AP) - A leading Kuwaiti official appealed Thursday for Church of Eogland belp in locating 625 people believed held in Iraq. Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, chairman of Kuwait's national committee for missing and prisoner of war affairs, met Archbisbop of Canterbury George Carey at Lambeth Palace in Loodon. Sheikh Saleh said in a statement be asked Archbisbop Carey

"to pray for us and to use bis international influence to help us gain information about these missing people." The courch's affairs office declined to release details of their discussion. Sbeikh Salem is touring Western capitals to raise awareness of Kuwaiti citizens who disappeared after Iraq invaded the emirate in August 1990. Accompanying him to London were Fowzan Al Fowzan, who escaped from a southern Iraqi prison in March 1991, leaving behind two brothers who have not been beard from since; and Dr. Ali Khuraibt, who said be has a beard from since; and Dr. All Khuraiot, woo said be has a cousin and brother-in-law being held prisoner io Iraq. Iraq denies it is holding any of the 625 people, whose details have been lodged with the International Red Cross in Geneva. Sheikh Salem was due to meet Friday with Freneb officials in

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## FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARRIVALS

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# Arab World's 'position' in world strategies to be analysed in 3-day regional conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — About 30
Arab political scientists and
historians with expertise in
strategic studies today will
gather in Amman to participate in the "Tbird Arab
Strategic Conference" which
aims at analysing the Arab
World's "position" in world
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Organised jointly by its regular sponsors, the Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS) at the University of Jordan and the Centre fur Pulitical and Strategic Studies of Al Ahram (Arabic daily) in Cairo, and for the first time this year with the Arab Political Science Association, speakers will address the changes in international political environment in the after-

math of the collapse of the Soviet Union and review the events of these past years and their implication on the Arab World

The three-day conference to be held under the patronage of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, will discuss the specificity of the U.S. strategy in the area as well as that of Europe (Britain, France, Germany and Russia), Japan and China.

Sources close to the organising committee said leading Arab political scientists have prepared papers which include topics such as political dimensions of the development of the new world nrder, U.S. strategies towards the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and

the regional transitions in the Arab area, and the future interest of the U.S. in the region.

Other papers will focus on the reflections of the European Union (EU) on the Arab World and British and French foreign policy in the Middle East. Subsequent sessions will deal with German and Russian foreign policy in the Arab region and Russian economic ties to the area.

Discussion on Asian foreign pobey in the Middle East will concentrate on the Japanese and Chinese policies.

A session will be dedicated to the Arab World and the United Nations, particularly the Arab role in the development of the U.N. as well as the U.N. and the changing values of the world order.

The final session will be an open discussion at the above and the opportunities available to the Arab World's strategists and decision-makers.

Taking part in the conference are experts from universities and research institutions from Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon and Libya as well as Jordan.

The conference is being held at the University of Jordan. The CSS hosted the "First Arab Strategic Conference" in Amman in 1987. The second conference was held in Cairo in

# JPMC completes expansion to produce more phosphoric acid

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) has announced the satisfactory completion of expansion project at its fertilizer complex at Aqaba to increase production of phosphoric acid. Samih Madani, director-general of the JPMC, said that the perfurmance guarantee test of the \$34 million project was successfully completed more than two months after the expansion

scheme went on stream.

"We now produce 1,300 tonnes of 100 per cent pure phosphoric acid per day compared with 850 to 900 tonnes prior to the completion of the expansion project," Mr. Madani tald the Jardan Times Friday.

The project was undertaken by a French-Belgian consortinm, Bourgues-Coppee Lavalin, on a turnkey basis under a contract signed in July 1991. The consortium enlisted Jordanian contractors for all civil construction as well as mechanical and electrical installation

and instrumentation. Mr. Madani said the "rehabilitation" of the fertilizer plant was in line with the JPMC's new strategy of moving towards producing downstream fertilizers rather than simply supplying raw materials to foreign producers.

He said that with the increase in production of phosphoric acid, the company could now boost its nutput nf diamonium phosphate from 600,000 tonnes per year to 750,000 tonnes per year, an increase of around \$27 millinn in annual value at international market prices.

According to Mr. Madani, other ongoing JPMC projects include addition of production facilities and expansion of existing plants with a view to enabling the company to meet the requirements of some of the joint projects that it has launched with foreign companies.

The joint ventures include a Jordanian-Japanese project to produce 300,000 tonnes every year of compound fertilizers for the Japanese market and a Jordanian-Indian project to produce phosphor-

Samih Madani

ic acid.
"The JPMC strategy is to diversify production in line with shifting pattern in the international market," said Mr. Madani, adding that over the past few years the tendency in the market had been moving towards processed fertilizers rather than raw material like phosphates.

On the international front, he said, the JPMC strategy would belp boost Jordan's industrial base, create employment opportunities and increase foreign exchange earnings from exports.

"Equally important, we can also attract foreign investment to Jordan for downstream fertilizer industries," Mr. Madani said.

Phosphates and potash are Jordan's major exports. But overall profits of the JPMC and the Arab Potash company have declined in recent years as a result of an international depression in prices as well as additional costs incurred from the de factn blockade in the Red Sea imposed by the enforcers of the international sanctions against

Despite the difficulties, Jordan edged out Morocco to assume the slot of the second largest exporter of phosphate after the United States in 1993. The Kingdom now accounts for 15 per cent of world exports of phosphates.

The JPMC is considering several other joint ventures with fureign participation, but negotiations have not reached advanced stages,

# JD 1,077m in circulation, says CBJ

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian currency in circulation stood at JD 1,077 million at the end of 1993, np from JD 1,023 million in 1992, recently released Central Bank of Jurdan (CBJ) figures show.

The monthly December bulletin of the CBJ indicated that the bank released JD 55 million in banknotes and JD 500,000 in coins during the

According to the bulletin, the currency in circulation at the end of 1993 was made up of:

or:

— JD 921.2 million in 20dinar notes;

— JD 100.8 million in 10-

dinar notes;

— JD 27.6 million in fivedinar notes;

— JD 14.5 million in onedinar notes; and

— JD 4.4 million in half-

dinar notes.

The rest — JD 9.3 million
— was in coins, with JD
500.000 introduced during

1993, the bulletin showed.

At the end of 1989, Jordanian money in circulation stood at JD 887.5 million (JD 880.7 million in banknotes and JD 6.8 million in coins). in 1990 at JD 1,022.2 million (1,014.9 million in banknotes and JD 7.3 million in coins)

and in 1991 at JD 1,017.6

million (JD 1,009.8 million in

The decline in currency in circulation in 1991 was bemememeanly JD 36 million in 10dinar notes, JD 6 million in

eause of the withdrawal of nearly JD 36 million in 10-dinar notes, JD 6 million in five-dinar notes and JD 6 million in one-dinar notes. The CBJ introduced JD 36 million in 20-dinar notes during the year.

Another JD 10 million in

Another ID 10 million in 10-dinar notes and JD 500,000 in five-dinar notes and were withdrawn in 1992, but JD 21 million in 20-dinar notes were introduced during the year.

In 1993, the Central Bank introduced JD 56 million in 20-dinar notes, JD 1.6 million in five-dinar notes, JD 500,000 in one-dinar notes and JD 300,000 in half-dinar notes and withdrew another JD 10 million in 10-dinar notes, the bulletin showed.

Twenty-dinar notes represented 80 per cent of the money in circulation in 1989, and grew steadily to 83.9 per cent in 1991, 84.8 per cent in 1992 and 86.2 per cent in 1993.

Ten-dinar notes, which represented 15.2 per cent of the money in circulation in 1989, declined to 9.4 per cent in 1993 and five-dinar notes dropped from 3.1 per cent in 1989 to 2.6 per cent in 1993; one-dinar notes grew from 1.3 per cent in 1989 to 1.4 per cent during this period.

# Regional aerosol industries agree to facilitate safety, protection measures

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) activity centre and its regional office for West Asia Thursday ended a regional training course on aerosol conversion by agreeing to facilitate safety and protection measures for producing substitutes to be used in the aerosol industries.

used in the aerosol industries.

More than 60 delegates and experts from Arab and foreign countries who participated in the three-day meeting ended the training programme with a visit to the Housebold and Toiletries Manufacturing Company in Irbid, a Jordanian company which recently completed its conversion from producing aerosols with ozone-depicting substance (ODS) to utilising liquefied petroleum gas which is considered a safer product. Geno Nardini, a con-

sultant with UNEP in Mexico.

said the visit to the company was very successful in terms of convincing all participants of the benefits of using an aerosol substitute in factories in their own countries.

"We will be working on all Jordanian factories to convert to this new propellant system and they will be getting assistance from the Multi-lateral Montreal Protocol to do so," Mr. Nardim told the Jordan Times.

He said this conversion will

not effect the quality of the product; on the contrary, be said "it increases its competitiveness, modernises it and is beneficial to the industry and the environment."

According to Mr. Nardini

the environment."

According to Mr. Nardini, several factories in other countries in the region have started converting to environmentally-safe propellants, some willingly, and some after being asked to do so. He cited Egypt,

Yemen, Morocco, Sudan, India and Tunisia as examples.

Ghazi Odat, assistant director of the Department of Environment's chief division of air pollution at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment told the Jordan Times that all factories will be compensated for their conversion, including the Irbid company which has already adopted the changes, from a \$1.8 million fund allocated for Jordan by the Montreal Protection

The regional training course, which was held in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, discussed the obstacles and advantages that aerosol manufacturing industries have found in converting to non-ODS technology and what such conversion entrails

what such conversion entails.

The participants agreed to adopt safety and personal pro-

tection measures in handling hydrocarbon aerosol propellants (HAPs) which should be carefully considered and be made available in proper quantities and qualities to aerosol industries that are converting. They also agreed to facilitate obtaining financial support in the form of funds, loans, grants, and insurance for the conversion projects.

Implementation agencies were asked to provide countries under the Montreal Protocol with general guidance, above the technical specifications and standards required for implementing different projects.

They were also asked to provide a list of the interregional companies which are capable of supplying goods by the implementing agency, and to follow-up on the recommendations, and to evaluate what bas been achieved.

# Experts see crime on the increase, with national, international dimensions

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The West Asia regional preparatory meeting in advance of the 1995 Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders has recognised crime as an increasing problem with national and international dimensions, hampering political, economic, social and cultural development and threatening the peace and stability of the international community.

During the four-day meeting which concluded Thursday representatives of Saodi Agabia, Egypt and Jordan stressed the importance of prisoner rebabilitation and the proper management of correctional services.

Delegates from Jordan also raised the problem of currency counterfeiting, saying that it is a dangerous crime that threatens the economie, social and political security of a country because it leads to a loss of confidence in its currency.

The observer from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) raised the issue of buman rights and law enforcement, saying that the two do not conflict with each other as some think, ... "it is a lawless pobee which arrests arbitrarily, beats, tortures and indiscriminately uses firearms, that will not be respected and does not serve respect."

The delegate from the Holy See addressed the issue of violence against women saying that "some of our laws and legislations tolerate violence against women and children for the sake of discipline."
"These priociples need to be recognised, and law enforcement officials' handling of cases of violence against women should also be reviewed," she said.

But delegates from Saudi Arabia and Iraq agreed that violence against women was not a major problem in the region "since it is rejected by Islam and by the nature of family values in the Arab World."

"If we are talking about equality," said the Saudi delegate, "we should be discussing violence against human beings, as that includes both men and women."

The Australian delegate ack-

nowledged the importance of addressing this issue, saying that it is better to talk about the problem in general rather than limiting it to violence against women. He stressed the benefit in identifying the particular vulnerabilities of particular groups, be they women, children, elderly or ethnic groups, because this bears on crime prevention techniques.

chniques. He also called for gun con"tangible area," whereby each nation can reduce the impact of crime upon their communities.

He used last month's Hebron massacre as an example. "There is no justification for any individual to own an automatic or semi-automatic weapon," he said,

"Mass killings are only pussible because bigh-risk weapons are allowed to circulate among citizens," he added.

A draft document presented at the end of the meeting stated that there is a rapid growth and danger of terrorism as a form of violent crime which threatens security, stability and the rule of law.

It called on the governments to unite their forces to combat the deleterious effects of transnational erime, particularly arganised crime.

# HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Mexican president
AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a cable to Mexican President Carlos Salmas condoling him over the assassination Thursday of ruling party presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colossin.

# King congratulates Bangladesh

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a cable to Bangladeshi President Abdur Rahman Biswas congratible ting him on bis country's national day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the people of Bangladesh further progress and prosperity.

# Jordan to turn clocks ahead on April 1

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will switch to summer time as of Friday morning April 1, according to a Cabinet decision. The clock should be set one hour ahead thus making the time difference between Jordan local time and Greenwich Meantime to three hours. The country will return to winter time as of Friday Sept. 16, according to the Cabinet decision.

# Ministry submits draft insurance law to Cabinet

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Health has referred to the Cabinet a comprehensive bealth insurance draft law for approval. The draft law was prepared by an ad hoc committee which was chaired by Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas. The committee, which included representatives of the ministry, the Royal Medical Services and specialised firms, has been bolding extensive meetings over the past six months to finalise the draft law.

# PSD announces bridge closings

AMMAN (Petra) — King Hussein Bridge on the Jordan River will be closed to all traffic on Sunday March 27 and Thursday April 14 according to Public Security Department (PSD) sources. The bridge will open on Wednesday April 13 until 9.00 a.m., the sources said. On Fridays during April, bridge crossing will be allowed until 10.00 a.m., according to the PSD.

# ----

# WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

# **EXHIBITIONS**

- Photo exhibition of the Hashemites and the heroic deeds of the Jordanian Armed Forces at the Jordan Zaitounah
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists Husam Khader and Rahim Al
   Shaykhi at Alia Art Gallery ★ Jordanian-Iraqi contemporary exhibition by over 80 artists
- at Ain Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (9:30 a.m-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 644451).

  Exhibition by Syrian artists Abdul Manan Shamma, Khalid Almuz, and Mamdouh Kashlan at Ab'aad Art Gallery.
- Exhibition of sculptures and drawings by Jordanian sculptures and drawings by Jordanian sculptures are same Tabhaa. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of the S4 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh
- Exhibition entitled "Writers Do Draw" by Jamai Naji,
  Brahim Nasrallah, and Farouq Wadi at the Royal Cultural
  Centre.
- Plastic art exhibition by Syrian artists Abdul Qader Azzonz and Aoun Al Droubi at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and

- C-14 (05001)
- ☆ Exhibition by Iraqi artist Turki Abdullah at the Baladna Art
- Gallery.

  The Exhibition by artist Shawkat Al Rubai'y at the Orfall Art
- Gallery in Um Utheina (Tel. 826932)

  the Book exhibition at the Safeway International.

# MUSICAL RECITAL

☆ Trio Scholi (flute, guitar and violin) will be presented at the Forte Grand Hotel at 8:00 p.m.

# THE FIRST AMMAN THEATRE FESTIVAL

Drama entitled "A Very Symbolic Play" at the main theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

# ★ Lecture entitled "Music and Drama" by Kifah Fakhouri at

the studio theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

☆ Poetry recital by poet Yousef Abdul Aziz at the Phoenix Gaflery for Art and Culture at 7:00 p.m.

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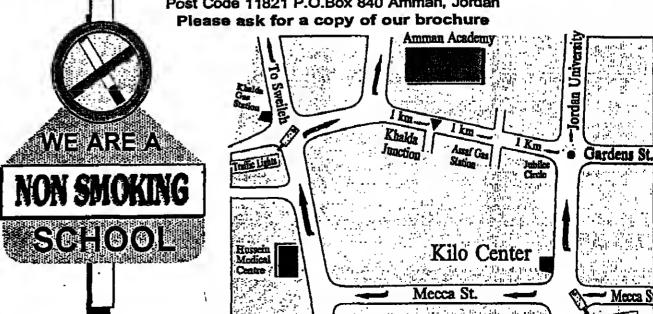
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# Peace for the peninsula

THE CRISIS over the inspection of North Korea's nnclear programme has been escalating and might develop into a serious threat to the stability and security of the whole Korean peninsula. The U.S. government, propelled by the South Korean authorities and the American conservatives, appear determined to press North Korea to abandon its nuclear programme. The Clinton administration has already dispatched Patriot missiles to the South, presumably to deter any attack from the North, and it is pushing for a Security Council resolution that would force the North to open its nuclear facilities for the inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Russia and China are both apprehensive. Russia, fearful of a repeat of the Iraq episode, is calling for an international conference; and China is fearful of a conflict next door that might engulf the whole region. The Korean conflict of course is as old as the U.N. itself. In 1952 the U.N. interfered, following a North Korean invasion, and the U.S. led a U.N. intervention force that restored the border between the North and South. Both North and South Korean anthorities have in recent years started negotiations aimed at Germanstyle reunification. But when the German experience proved to be painful to the wealthier West Germans. the wealthier South Koreans started to have second thoughts about the virtues of reunification.

The U.S. interest lies in maintaining the status quo. They have troops stationed there and they keep the southern army armed with the most sophisticated and expensive American equipment. But the North Koreans are making trouble for the Americans: They are selling arms to antagonists of the west, especially in the Middle East. That is why the Americans insist on managing the conflict almost solely on their own. They are not happy with the Russian proposal for an international conference and insist that the Security Council is "the best forum" for addressing the issue. They are also unhappy with the Chinese posture and are waving the stick of the status of the most favoured nation accorded to China, ostensibly over China's poor human rights record.

The Korean war in the 1950s was itself an epitomy of the cold war and it was a bloody and costly one. The present conflict brings a sad past to the mind, though the circumstances are different. That is why we feel that the two Koreas have to be helped in coming together rather than spurred on to confrontation. An international effort, aimed first at reducing tension in the peninsula and then at reactivating stalled inter-Korean talks, is what should follow, whether through the Security Council or at a specially designed confer-

# **ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES**

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily appealed to the concerned authorities to open the way for investments in the country by upgrading laws and regulations and giving facilities to investors from Arah and foreign countries. Ahmad Sbaker said the present rules make it difficult for an investor to embark on projects that would give jobs to the unemployed as the rules are rather complicated and not properly and efficiently handled by government employees. If we want to find jobs for the rising numbers of unemployed, he said, we can not do that by asking the government to make room for thousands of additional employees in its offices but rather through the help of the private sector in successful and advanced nations takes the lead in investment, in employment and in directing the country's economy. He said that while obstacles are being laid in the path of investors in Jordan, we find Jordanian businessmen investing up to \$7 hillion in the free zone of Dubai, and while most countries that operate free trade zones open them for their own people, provided they pay the customs duty when taking the goods out, we prevent Jordanians from entering the free zones in Aqaba and Zarqa for a similar purpose. The writer said that the time has come for the government to take the necessary measures towards encouraging investment in deed rather than word.

KING HUSSEIN'S visit to the Gulf and his talks with its leaders offer a new ray of hope to the Arah masses to see their countries embarking on solidarity and common action to safeguard higher national interests, said Al Dustour daily. The paper said that the visit serves as a reminder that the Arabs are capable of mending fences despite their past differences and can collectively work-towards protecting their nation's interest. King Hussein's visit to the Gulf is not a mere reassertion of the good and hrotherly relations between lordan and other Arab states, but rather a new endeavour on the part of Jordan to reactivate inter-Arab action and to rally Arab ranks in the face of the common challenges, said the paper. Coming in the wake of an era of estrangement in the Arab World, after the Gulf war, the King's visit is viewed as one that reflects a determination by Arah leaders to transcend the past differences and open a new chapter of close and fruitful relations, added the paper. It said that the visit was a genuine effort on the part of Jordan to respond favourably to wise calls coming out from Qatar and Oman for reconciliation among the Arah leaders and for solidarity in the face of the Jordanian Perspective

# Jordan has had enough of Aqaba sanctions DIRE STRAITS

When the U.N. Security Council convened at short notice and issued a series of resolutions after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, Jordan did not anticipate that the world body would eventually turn around to target it. Well, that is the net effect of the international sanctions that the Security Council

imposed against Iraq.

Today, a Jordanian importer pays an average of \$15 per tonne extra for incoming cargo, regardless of whether it is for the local market or for export, to offset what shipowners describe as the cost of the delays caused by the interceptions of vessels entering the Gulf of Aqaba.

Jordan, which enjoyed a relatively comfortable competitive edge in the international phosphate and potash market, particularly among importers in the Far East, because of low freight costs from Aqaba, is Insing that advantage. The decline in the profits of the national companies exporting phosphates and potash reflects the extra hurden they have to shoulder to ensure that their prices remain attractive to the huyers despite the extra freight charges posed by the interception.

This did not start last month or the month before that. It started right from the imposition of the sanctions against Iraq and the stationing of an international naval force in the Red Sea. Jordan has been repeatedly complaining about its losses to the international community and the U.S., but other than prompt promises that the complaints would be looked into nothing has been done on the ground (on the high seas to be more precise) to change the situation.

The ready-made answer American officials have been offering Jordan every time the issue is raised is that the enforcement of the sanctions is a United Nations affair and Washington could only make recommendations to the world body. Well, that is a whole lot of haloney, and another instance where Washington embraces the U.N. when it suits its purposes while continuing to impose the American will on the world in its own way.

We cannot but deduce from our experience over the last two

years of knocking every door to alleviate the negative impact of the overzealous enforcement of the sanctions by the American-led warships patrolling the Red Sea that Washington strategists are using the cover of the embargo against Iraq as a pressure point against Jordan.

It defies us to fathom why the pressure. Jordan bas been, is and will remain to be at the forefront of countries adhering to all resolutions and decisions of the international community, There is no blemish on the Kingdom's record in this respect.

THE LOCAL Arabic dailies'

commentaries and columns

gave prominence to the Mid-

East question and

negotiations with Israel and

discussed domestie affairs

among other issues in the

A columnist in Al Ra'i

expressed the view that the

Arabs in general and the

Palestinians in particular have to negotiate with the Israelis and the Americans

simply because they have no

other alternative given the

disarray in their ranks and

their military and political

the Arabs must go to the

talks in order to try 10 salvage

back to the negotiating table.

Ahmad Al Misleh said that

past week.

weakness.

united stand.

There may have been a few cases of smuggling across the border to Iraq in violation of the sanctions, hut then no country in the world bas foolproof borders. In any case, the sanction-bustiog smuggling has all but dried up since mid-1992 when Jordan reinforced border patrols and spent a large amount from the scarce resources available to it to plug loopholes in the long desert frontiers.

Emphatic reaffirmations that the continuing siege of Aqaba has no other purpose other than enforcing the sanctions against Iraq no longer bold water. It is no secret that the flow of cargo through our Red Sea port has declined to a level below our own national imports (since many of our importers are using Syrian and Lebanese ports), and that the volume of goods entering Iraq through Turkey and Iraq through Iraq goods entering Iraq through Turkey and Iran is at least six times that which comes through Aqaba.

But we have heard that Anterican officials have been suggesting that the entire situation at the Straits of Tiran, at the month of the Gulf of Aqaba where Jordan-bound ships are subject to what could be nothing hut intentional harassment, could change if Jordan were to move towards the "dramatie with Israel that Washington wants the Kingdom to

Obviously, the U.S. planners and strategists would like to link the siege of Aqaba with the peace process and pressure Jordan into making gestures that mean nothing but the surrender of the Kingdom's legitimate territorial and water rights and its right to demand compensation for bearing the costs of a problem which was of no making of its own to start

U.S. officials have also been saying that the administration on its own cannot do much to belp Jordan in a broader context unless without approval by the almighty Congress. That is

democracy, they say.

Well, we in Jordan also bave democracy and our congress, known as the Lower House of Parliament (just in case the Americans have not taken note), has demanded that the Kingdom refuse to return to the peace talks with Israel unless the blockade of Aqaba is lifted and an announcement to that effect is made at the U.N. Security Council.

Where does that leave Jordan, which is committed to a negotiated peace with Israel and has jumped through every firewbeel that the U.S. beld out since the beginning of the negotiations in Spain in 1991, and the U.S., which, for all practical and technical purposes, seems more interested in playing to Israeli tunes rather than achieving a just solution to the fundamental conflict in the Middle East?

There cannot be any question of Jordan's commitment to negotiated peace. It has met every American condition and responded enthusiastically to the window of opportunity for peace that negotiations with Israel holds out. But it cannot and will not make the "dramatic gestures" that Washington wants it to make simply because it makes neither political nor diplomatic sense to make gestures with no guarantees that its national interests and objectives will be served.

Foremost of the American demand is that Jordan regardless of the progress in the direct, bilateral Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, sign an agreement with the Jewish state and then negotiate the terms of that agreement. What a lopsided logical

But then American logic, when it comes to matters related to Israel, bas never made any sense even after repeated incidents where the Jewish state bas openly challenged the interests of its guardian angel. (Indeed, it is for the Americans to decide whether their interests lie where their taxdollars are spent and we recover comment on the called and the recovery.)

spent and we reserve comment on that at this point in time).
However, that does not mean that we in Jordan have to cater to the American logic tailor-made to suit Israeli interests. There is always a bottom line and Jordan bas been treading on

that bottom line for years.

We all boped early this year that at last there was a solution in the offing to remove the hurdles that the enforcement of the sanctions against Iraq pose to our maritime operations. After the January meeting between King Hussein and President Clinton at the White House and the presentation our prime minister, Abdul Salam Majali, made to the U.N. Sanctions Committee in New York, we all hoped that there would be a quick follow-up to the proposal to station an international independent agency to inspect all incoming and outgoing cargo at the port of Aqaba; in effect moving the sea-based

For some time it seemed that Washington was serious in considering the proposal. Bot, as it seems now, the interest bas not only turned cold but also turned around as the recent escalation of Red Sea interceptions and tightening of seaborne inspections of Jordan-bound inspections evidence.

Quite simply, Jordan cannot accept this status quo. Beyond the economic losses that the Kingdom suffers in the bargain, our national dignity has been injured and we will oot allow it to continue. And if the Americans think that we Jordanians will keep quiet and continue to endure national humiliations and be subject to whatever game they are playing, then it is high time they sat back and spared time to reconsider their

# THE WEEK IN PRINT

# There is no alternative to talks for regaining peace

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah



whatever they can and regain whatever lands and rights they have lost to the Israelis. But the writer suggested that the negotiations should be Taher Al Udwan, a colreferred to the Arah League umnist in Al Dustour, said which, he said, could present that the U.S. administration is openly hostile to the Arabs a common Arab view and a and their aspirations and the The United States has suc-Arab regimes should take a ceeded in sedating the Arab World by allowing the U.N. serious stand against this attitude. It is not reasonable for Security Council to issue a condemnation of the Hehron the Arabs to go on trusting the United States while it is massacre to lure the Arabs taking hostile decisions

ited stands, he demanded.

Dustour columnist, said that

the latest U.S. stand at the

Security Council was bound

to have its adverse effects on

the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

The U.S. has refused to con-

sider Arah Jerusalem as an

occupied Arah land for the

first time and this is indeed a

turning point in America's

policy that should be heeded

by the Arabs, said the writer.

umnist in Al Ra'i, said that

despite its negative aspects,

Resolution 904 has its posi-

tive side. He said that the

resolution calls for protection

of the Palestinians and de-

mands that the co-sponsors of

the peace talks to ensure its

Arab and Islamie countries

ought to make quick moves

to exert pressure towards the

implementation of the resolu-

tion in the immediate stage.

daily discussed the need for

A columnist in Al Ra'i

The writer said that the

implementation.

Sultan Al Hattah, a col-

according to Tareq Masar-weh in Al Ra'i daily. The writer said that the the Iraqis at the official and U.N. levels, said the writer. Washington's latest stand at the U.N. Security Council mere condemnation has done concerning the voting on Jerusalem exposes the Clinnothing to win back Arah rights and the Israelis, as a result of the resolution, have ton administration's enmity imposed a tight curfew on towards the Arabs who Hebron, allowing the Zionshould reconsider their stand and adopt reasonable and nnists only to enter the Ihrahimi

It is regrettable that the Arabs and particularly the Palestinians have placed their eggs in the American basket hoping that the Oslo deal would help regain occupied Arah lands and hoping that the negotiations would end the occupation, said the wri-

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the United States is using the ongoing Arab-Israeli negotiations as a pretext to excuse itself from condemning Israel's atrocities. He said that while the Israelis continue their malpractices and crimes the United States and the world community are doing nothing but giving the Arabs lip service.

The writer said that the negotiations should by no means be allowed to stop the world community from implementing Security Council resolutions regarding the withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied lands.

breathing life in the southern regions of the Kingdom through socio-economic pro-Fahed Fanek said that the southern regions, which embody the badia area that

forms 80 per cent of the total area of the Kingdom, is in a pitiful condition and the gov-ernment is doing little for its development. When the govagainst the Palestinians and ernment wished to develop the Jordan Valley, it created a Jordan Valley Authority that has caused the valley to flourish; the government must follow the same example with the south, suggested tbe writer. He said that underground water in the badia was sufficient to turn the desert green. Fakhri Saleh, another Al

Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the promised govern-ment administrative reform should benefit the authorities in charge of encouraging investments. To encourage investors to come to the comtry, we must remove obstacles in the way and work efficiently to serve this purpose, said the writer.

It is clear that the Ministry of Industry and Trade officials are overburdened with work in view of the increased demand for new industrial schemes to open and the time has come for the ministry to come up with more dynamic methods and reorganise itself in a way to cope with the challenge for the benefit of the national economy, said

the writer. Commenting on the Health Ministry's recent decision to introduce the national health scheme, a columnist in Al Dustour said that the plan is urgently needed for the be-

nefit of the poor who cannot cover the cost of medical services.

While the rich can pay for their treatment and government employees are covered by the present medical and health care system, the other sectors, partienlarly the needy farmers, are beipless and in dire need of a national health scheme, be added.

Nazih Qusous, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, said that the scholarships of the Ministry of Higher Education are unfairly distributed to the students. Due to favoritism and nepotism many students with tawjihi grades in the 70s succeed in securing scbolarships while those with 90 per cent averages were deprived of the service, the writer said.

He said that he knows of many instances where Parliament members, acting through their friends and relatives in high position, succeeded in mediating for people to get the scholarships to which they are not entitled. A columnist in Al Ra'i

dailys said it is regrettable that the Israeli television has succeeded in areas where Jordan Television has failed. Israel television has been successful in holding panel discussions to tackle issues of concern to the public, but Jordan Television still lags far behind and does not present programmes that appeal to the viewers, said the writer.

It is not enough for the public administration reform to touch the education and the bealth systems, said the writer, as the public is keen on learning more and going in-depth into issues of interests to people's daily life.

# W. Bank law loaded against Arabs

By Sarah Helm

HEBRON, Occupied Territor-ies — The law does not hurry for Arahs in the Israelian occupied West Bank-1'Off-March 19, Palestinian families waited for hours, caged behind a tall wire fence, to hear if their sons' cases would be heard at the military court in Hebron.

In a small room inside the fortified barracks which houses the court, young soldiers picked over dog-cared files. Some cases had been awaiting trial for months, some for years.

Mohammad Shweiki, a mathematics teacher, was boping to see bis son, Abed Algani, who was jailed five months ago for alleged membership of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement. "I want to hear what the charge is. I want to hear the evidence," be said. But there was no sign of his

son, nor of any evidence. At midday, a military jndge, a 35-year-old major, and a military prosecutor, a 24-year-old captain with a law degree, took their seats. There were lawyers in suits and defendants in leg chains. But no charges were read or witnesses heard. There were no law books to refer to. Just the files, opened and discussed for a moment, then closed as the defendants were returned to their cells.

Hebron military court is only for Arab "crime", committed against Israeli soldiers or settlers. Although 6,000 settlers live in Hehron, they are subject to different laws.

The Hehron massacre bas turned a spotlight on the legal discrimination that has operated in the occupied territories since they were seized by Israel in 1967. The Israeli government claims that it fulfils its obligation as an occupier under international law, to protect "the local population". But there is no equality before the

The commission of inquiry into the massacre has heard that the Israeli army never considered the possibility that Jews could commit crimes against Arabs, only that Arabs would commit crimes against Jews. Army orders said soldiers could not shoot a settler, even if that settler was killing Arabs.

A report issued by B'tselem, the Israeli human rights group. after the massacre, has produced the first detailed study of the law governing settlers. It shows that crime hy settlers against Palestinians is common, but rarely prosecuted. If charged at all, settlers are tried inside Israel proper in civilian courts that treat them leniently. Sixty-two Palestinians have been killed by settlers since 1988, according to the report. Only one settler has been convicted of murder. To the Palestinians of the

occupied territories, it has always been clear that there is one law for them and one for the settlers, "Laws in the occu-pied territories are not based on what a human being may do or not do, but on whether be is a Jew or not," says Raja She-hadeh, a leading Palestinian

human rights lawyer. Outside the courts, Palestinians are punished collectively every day, by curfews, mass arrests and bouse demolitions. The families of Palestinians charged with serious offences often have their homes demolished. Jewisb settlers are never punished in this way.

In Hebron, as elsewhere, there had been hope that such. oppression might end with the signing of the Oslo peace accords. But since the massacre the town bas been a victim of the most blatant of all parodies of justice: on the order of the army, the 150,000 Palestinians of Hebron have been "collectively punished" for the massacre, which was carried out by a Jew. The grab town has been placed under curfew, but the Jewish settlements are under no restriction.

"Laws in the occupied territories are not based on what a human being may do or not do, but on whether he is a Jew or not."

In Hehron military court. therefore, it was hardly surprising that expectations of justice were low. Defendants who wished to call witnesses could not, as the curfew had prevented people from travelling. Most, however, knew that in this topsy-turvy court, witnesses do not help. "If I call witnesses, they will donble my sentence." said one defendant, charged with stone throwing.

Defendants never walk free. say lawyers. They invariably admit the charge, in order to "plea hargain" the best deal no their sentence. "Palestinian lawyers who work here have taken degrees in Jordanian law, which used to apply in the West Bank, and they have studied the Geneva confortions. But their studies bave been worthless: the only relevant "law" here is Israeli military law, which changes every month.

Ahmad Rwaidy, a 26-yearold Palestinian lawyer, said: We never know what the laws are. The truth is, there are no laws in these courts. There are no judges, only Israeli sol-

# ARAB BANK PLC

# **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

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rdence

Your institution stands tall and proud after 64 years of operations during which I. myself, worked for 58 years. It is now one of the principal financial institutions in the Arab world and ranks among the leading international banks in terms of equity, earninga, and assets. The path of Arab Bank has been long and arduous; howevar success amid the current rapid changes calls for additional efforts and resources. improved efficiency, and more

Arab Bank Group

Shareholders' Equity

Arab Bank Group

Loans and Advances

advanced technology. Future changes and difficulties will demand even more sophisticated solutions.

Throughout past years, we contributed effectively and positively to the development of the Arab economy without discrimination of any kind. The mission envisaged for your institution by its founder, the late Abdel Hameed Shoman, illuminated our way. Arab Bank pioneered banking in the Arab world. Furthermore, the Bank has never hesitated to serve aincerely its customers at all levels wherever it operated. After all these years however, more serious and davoted efforts are needed to achieve inter-Arab economic

cooperation at the degree we had hoped for. Our objective is formidable and still eludes us. Yet we have hopes of a better future. The recent regional economic : groupingmakes the need for better Arab co-operation even more imperative.

witnessed acceleration of the peace process in the Middle East. The Palestinians

that the needs may create.

accepted an agreement that will give them back part of their legitimate and just rights. The West Bank and Gaza Strip are to be returned to Arab sovereignty. As a result of this agreement, Arab Bank will reopen its branches in Nablus, Gaza, Ramallah, Hebron, Tulkarm, Jenin, and Jerusalem. Wa will do our best to provide our people in Palestine with outstanding services to help them in rebuilding their economy. Our positive contribution to the development of the community will reach all Palestinian areas via the axisting branches and new ones

During the long history of the Bank we have worked hard to strengthen its financial position as well as its international presence. In spite of crises, wars, and continuous political instability in the area, we have been able to overcome all hurdles and promote the Bank to become one of tha best international financial institutions. Wa have achieved our goals by the help of God, the aupport of our shareholders, tha loyalty of our customers, and the efforts of our

After all these years and changes, Arab Bank will continua to follow its prudent and aound policies. The deep-seated confidence enjoyed by the Bank has been earned by hardwork and selective standards which include prudent management of funds, preferance for good financial position rather than short term profitability. diligent cultivation of customer trust as well as provision of excellent customer services. We also endeavour to serve the economy of the Arab world, and will do our best to operate in the Arab countries where we do not work at the present time for reasons beyond our control. Special attention will be given to the Palestinian community, without impairing our sound banking standards.

During the past years Arab Bank has succeeded in achieving sevaral financial goals. In the last ten years, for example, the Bank waa able to increase its capital base significantly by retention of Income, as it followed a policy of building up its equity via retained earnings. The market value of the Bank's stocks has been enhanced several fold as a result of this policy. The growth of customer deposits has been parallel to the increase in equity. The positive growth in cuatomar deposits has been reflected in the assets of the Bank, which reached JD 7,570.4 million, representing a material growth during the same period.

High liquidity, a stable and loyal customer base, diversification of risks, and prudence in Investments quarantee that we will continue to play a major role in financial markets in the future. It is important to underline that Arab Bank will continue to pursue cautious yet flexible policias, so as to accommodate its customers' needs and assure at the same time its outstanding performance.

In 1993, Arab Bank achieved good results in almost all ita activities, including revenue as well as management of the balance sheet. Net income for the year, after the deduction of all expenses, provisions, and taxes reached JD 59.5 million compared to JD 55.1 million in the previous year. The Group's net income remained at its 1992 level, recording US\$ 107.2 million. Most of the earnings were created by standard banking operations, hence net interest composed 64.9% of the total revenue. The growth of the external funds paralleled the davelopmen, of the investment opportunities we chose in 1993. Total assets at the end of the year reached JD 7,570.4 million, representing an increase of 6.2%. Liquidity was at 61.8%. The loan portfolio was 35.2% of total assets, the majority of which are composed of customers' deposits which amounted to JD 6,994.1 million compared to JD 6,581.0 million in the past year. The Bank's external funds are usually derived from its customers' deposits. Inter-bank activities are kept confined to correspondence banking requirements.

It can be observed from the balance sheet that the Bank continued its selective lending policy. Loan portfolio net of doubtful debt provision improved slightly over the previous year's level, recording Investments

2.668.6 million. in prime quality marketable securities and promissory notes increased to JD 985.6 million from JD 868.9 million in 1992.

The Board of Directors recommends to the General Assembly that it approve the distribution of 35% of the nominal share value as dividends. The balance of net income is allocated to the equity reserves as" shown in the attached financial statements. Accordingly, total equity is increased to JD 432.0 million as against JD 388.0 million at the end of 1992. Tota equity of the Group exceeded the one billion US\$ mark for the first time to reach US\$ 1,061.1 million compared to US\$ 993.0

The equity asset ratio was increased to 5.7% compared to 5.4% in the previous year. The capital adeq .acy ratio measured according to the BIS rules reached 12.42% compared to 11.96% at the end of

Arab Bank continued its expansion in the Arab countries and the

world in general. At the beginning of 1993, our new branch in Aden, Yemen Republic, entered operation. In April, Arab Bank AG in Frankfurt, Garmany, started operations; this Bank is a wholly owned subsidiary of Arab Bank Plc and operates within the rulea and regulations of tha EC. Our branch in Madrid, Spain, started its operations at the end of July. Furthermore, several officea and branches joined our network in Jordan.

During the year, Mr. Rafic Al Hariri relinquished his membership of the Board to carry out his duties as Prime Minister of Lebanon. I would like to convey to the Prime Miniater, on your behalf, our warmest thanks and appreciation for his services on the Board during the past years. I would also like to extend to him our sincere good wishes for auccess in hia efforts to rebuild Labanon. Mr. Bahaa Rafic Hariri was elected by the Board to fill the vacant seat according to paragraph (A) of Article 178 of the 1989 Jordan Company Law.

With the Meeting of the General Assambly, the four-year term of office of the current Board comes to an end. The General assembly Is kindly requested to elect a new Board.

On this occasion, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all Board Members for their aervices on the Board during the previous years. I would also like to thank our shareholdera and customers for their confidence and continuoua support and our staff for their dedicated work and loyalty.

Abdulmajeed Shoman Chairman, Board of Directors

# **A SPECIAL RELATION**

Arab Bank management's bellef in its mission crowns the elements that have enebled it to achieva continuous success. Its objectives exceed the usual income generating goals. The Bank is In pertnership with the where societies it operates, its aim being to enhance their welfare and participate In economic and social development. For the Bank to succeed in its endeavours, its customers must share Its beliefs and play an active role in the fulfilment of its objectives.



When we go back in memory, we can recapture vivid pictures that exemplify the special relation bonding Arab Bank to its customers, the children and grandchildren of those who entrusted us with their banking business more than 60 years ago are our customers today. The Bank succeeded in growing in harmony with their development and prosperity. Arab Bank history is part of their heritage because it has been a trusted advisor to them in problems that have sometimes been beyond the bounds of business and finance.

Our client is not a mere number in a transaction. He is a member of the family. We know the first names of our customers as they know ours. This special relation la evident in troublesome times. During political crises, for example, new customers join and clients deposits grow. The management of Arab Bank works hard to enhance this mutual trust by following clear and reliable

Arab Bank works to meet the needs of its customers in a simpla and direct manner. A full line of useful products has been designed over the years. This includes retail banking, private banking, trade and Industrial financing, merchant banking, consumer and real-estate lending and International banking services.

By simplified utilization, Arab Bank aims to excel in performance. The Bank does not take quality tor granted, it masters all elements of its services, moulding them to serve its customers. Information and advice are presented clearly in order to enhance the customer's chances of success. Technical excellence has been a basic element in building this special

All resources are utilized to increase our efficiency to serve our clients promptly. One of the main ingredients of the Bank's success in the financial sector ia its selected staff. Throughout the history of the Bank, its employees' dedication and perseverance have been its source of power. Our customers' loyalty and confidence are a direct response to our staff performance, the Bank takes great pride in knowing that it has employed generations of outstanding individuals who are at the forefront in the fields of finance and banking.

Arab Bank's Investment in modern technology is another Important element of its policy to achieve distinction in customer services. The Bank is a leader in utilizing modern technology in its operations. Our investment in automated services, data processing and communications enable our customers to execute their banking transactions Instantaneoualy. The facilities of the Bank also enable them to obtain relevant and timely information.

To complement our efforts to excel in aerving our customers, we have travelled with them East and West. A diversified network of branches and subsidiaries covering most of the International financial centers in the world has been placed at their disposal, thus enabling them to receive immediate assistance and aaving them unnecessary expense. The Bank's global network has also enriched our customer base through the addition of new facilities In the countries where the Bank operates.

Our customers' trust in the Benk is based on its good financial position. Arab bank has proved time and again its ability to survive and succeed during periods of crisis thanks to its sound policles. Prudent management of funds has enabled the Bank to maintain a strong and healthy financial position responding to customers' needs and fulfilling its commitments towards them in troublesoma times. The Bank's sustained care of its customers' interests has been instrumental in deepening their confidence in the Bank.

We are certain that the special relation with our customers will flourish in the future despite the significant change affecting all aspects of life. Many assumptions on which we used to build our strategies have been altered, and the banking Industry is entering an era in which It will be compelled to Increase its effectiveness In a way that might weaken direct relations between client and bank, Despite all of these elements, Arab Bank will continue to remain faithful to its customers, focusing on their strategies and needs. We shall be aiming for a renewed future partnership in the same way as we have ahared past success.

> Khalild Shoman Deputy Chairman, **Board of Directors**



# ARAB BANK PLC

# Balance Sheet as of 31 December 1993 and 1992

	1993	1992
	J.D.(*000)	J.D.('000)
Assets		
Cash and due from banks	3,695,687	3,420,872
Securities and investments	985,629	868,935
Loans and advances	2,668,564	2,596,201
Customers' liability on acceptences	92,004	111,076
Premises and equipment	48,532	42,259
Accrued interest receivable	46,949	49,512
Other assets	33,061	38,522
Total Assets	2,570,426	W, MC P. STOT
Customers' liability on guarantees and letters of credit	2 422 460	0.005.005
Credit	2,422,468	2,225,695
	ESPACABLA	9.83,877

	1993 J.D.('000)	J <sub>-</sub> D.(*000)
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity		
Deposits and other accounts	6,994,073	6,581,010
Acceptances	. 92,004	111,076
Accrued interest peyeble	36,894	34,036
Dividends and remunerations	15,455	13,255
Capital	44,000	44,000
Statutory reserve	44,000	36,000
Voluntary reserve	75,000	60,000
General reserve	269,000	248,000
Total Cability's Aid Shareholdars Egyry	7,676,426	3,327333
Guarantees and letters of credit	2,422,468	2,225,695
Total	9,969,984	9,263.025

Khalid A.H. Shoman Deputy Chairman

Abdulmajeed A.H. Shoman

	1993	1992
	J.D.(*000)	J.D.(*000)
Funds Provided		
Net income	59,455	55,055
Depreciation of premises and equipment	5,797	4,863
Total funds provided from operations	65,252	59,918
Increase in: Deposits and other accounts	415,921	136,430
Decreese in: Cash end due from benks		62,154
Loans and advances		53,958
Other essets	8,024	11,327

Funds Applied		
Dividends and remunerations paid	13,255	11,055
Increase in: Cash end due from banks	274,815	
Securities end investments	116,694	302,710
Loans and advances	72,363	
Premises and equipment	12,070	10,022

# **Auditors' Report**

To the Shareholders of Arab Benk.

We have audited the balance sheet of Areb Bank (a Jordanian public shareholding limited company) es of Decamber 31, 1993 and 1992, end the related statement of income end statement of sources and epplications of funds for the years ended December 31, 1993 and 1992. We conducted our audit in accordence with International Standards on Auditing and included such tests of the eccounting records and of the system of internal control and such other auditing procedures as we considered necassary in the circumstences. We have obtained the information end explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.

	1993	1992
	J.D.(*000)	J.D.(*009)
Revenue		
Interest revenue	415,141	426,341
Less: Interest expense	271,864	296,121
Net interest revenue	143,277	130,220
Non-interest revenue		
Commissions	42,129	35,756
Foreign exchenge trading	12,898	9,704
Other revenue	22,589	19,263
Total non-interest revenue	77,616	64,723
Toral Neterica	224.00m	194.542
		2000 - 1200 - 10
Expenses		
Salaries and staff benefits	57,670	50,868
Depreciation of premises and equipment	5,797	
Other expenses and provisions	77,892	4,863
Oral Expenses	141366	68,229
Net income before income taxes	79,534	143,960
ncome taxes		70,863
income taxes	20,079	
	20,079 59,455	15,928
Net Income		
Net Income		15,928
Appropriations  To statutory reserve		15,928 55,065
Appropriations To statutory reserve To voluntary reserve	59,455	15,928 55,065 7,150
Appropriations To statutory reserve To voluntary reserve	59,455 8,000	7,150 8,600
Net Income	8,000 15,000	15,928 55,055 7,150

The Benk maintains proper accounting records and the eccompenying finencial statements are in agreement therewith. Furthermora, the finencial data presented by the

In our opinion, the accompanying finencial stetements present fairly the financial position of Areb Bank as of December 31, 1993 and 1992, and the results of its operations and applications of funds for the years then anded, in conformity with large tion of Areb Bank as of December 31, 1993 and 1992, and the results of its operations and its sources and applications of funds for the years then anded, in conformity with International Accounting Standards, and we recommend that the General Assembly approves,

Saba & Co.

Ammen, Jordan, January 24, 1994

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# ARAB BANK GROUP

# Balance Sheet as of 31 December 1993 and 1992

	<b>199</b> 3	1992
	US\$ ('000)	US\$ (*000)
Assets		
Cash and due from banks	7,865,574	8,041,862
Securities and investments	1,531,832	1,364,267
Loans and advances	4,313,880	4,227,449
Customers' liability on accaptances	130,658	- 160,727
Investments in associated companies	335,293	335,744
Premises and equipment	84,949	77,045
Accrued interest receivable	68,278	72,601
Other assets	83,297	94,541
lotal Assets	17.418.781	14.724.776
Customers' liability on guarantees and letters of credit	3,719,960	3,498,589

	1993	1992		
	J.D.('000)	J.D.('000)		
Liebilities				
Deposits and other accounts	13,143,135	13,148,269		
Acceptances	130,658	160,727		
Accrued interest payable	53,344	49,859		
Proposed dividends	25,553	22,430		
dtel Labitities	Address Address			
Shereholders' Equity				
Capital Capital	. 139,246	139,246		
Statutory reserve	111,677	99,558		
Voluntary reserve	148,871	127,571		
General reserve	672,406	635,414		
Reserves with associated companies	214,211	202,882		
Retained earnings	2,714	2,778		
Total	1,289,125	1,207,449		
Translation adjustments	(228,054)	(214,498)		
idial Shimisolders: Equity	#1001071	77.75		
Foreit Establishes and		- 1		
Commission Explor				
Guarantees and letters of credit	3,719,960	3, 498,589		
Control	TO THE PERSON OF			

	1993	1992
	US\$ (*000)	US\$ (*000
Revenue		
Interest revenue		· ~~ 729,766
Less: Interest expense	450,523	507,598
Net interest revenue	240,393	222,168
Non-interest revenue		
Commissions	79,138	71,330
Foreign exchange trading	24,452	19,367
Other revenue	70,117	71,527
Total non-interest revenue	173,707	162,224
Codal Disserva	444.190	364.362
Expenses		
Salaries and staff benefits	101,944	91,925
Depreciation of premises	9,944	11,693
Other expenses and provisions	136,955	120,980
Total Capetions	295,548	22.55
Net income before income taxes	165,257	159,794
Income taxes	58,028	53,422
Net Incoma	107,229	106,372
Appropriations		
Net Income	107,229	106,372
Retained earnings brought forward	2.778	3,718
Brondy Colonia	11.00	INCOM.
		10,818
To statutory reserve	12,119	,.
	21,300	12,445
To voluntary reserve		
To voluntary reserve To general reserve To reserves with associated	21,300	12,445
To voluntary reserve	21,300 36,992	12,445 44,192

	1993 USS ('000)	1992 US\$ ("000)
Funds Provided	U49 ( 000)	035 (000)
	367 226	Tree and
Net income	107,229	106.972
Depreciation of premises end equipment	9,944	11,693
Total funds provided from operations	117,173	118,066
Decrease in: Cash end due from banks	178,288	630,936
Loans and advances	••••	55,839
Investments in associated companies	451	
Other assets	15,567	36,103
Total funds provided from changes in assets end liabilities	192.306	722,878
Last River Provided	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	M45,945
Funda Applied		
Dividends end remunerations paid	22,430	19,305
Translation adjustments	13,556	43,915
Increase in: Securities end investments	167,565	422,709
Loans and edvances	88,431	
Investments in associated companies		48,120
Premises and aquipment	17,848	11,834
Decreese in: Deposits and other accounts	1,549	294,060
otal Funda Applico	10.00	wale.
Auditors' Report		

To the Shereholders of Areb Benk,

We have euclited the concolidated belance sheet of Arab Bank Group, as of December 31, 1993 and 1992, and the related consolidated statement of income and consolidated statement of sources and applications of funds for the years than anded. Dur audit was conducted in accordance with international Standarde on Auditing and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. Included in the financial statements are amounts relating to a sister company and cartain subsidiaries audited by other auditors whose

In our opinion, based upon our examination and the reports of other auditors, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial position of Arab Sank Group as of December 31, 1993 and 1992, and the results of its operations and its sources and applications of funds for the years then anded, in conformity with international Accounting Standards.

Saba & Co.

Ammen, Jordan, January 24, 1994

# ARAB BANK

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SISTER INSTITUTIONS, SUBSIDIARIES AND ASSOCIATED COMPANIES



Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd.,
Zurich, Geneva
Wholly owned by the shareholders of Arab Bank Plc.
Arab Australia Ltd.
Sydney
Wholly owned subsidiary
Arab Bank (Anstria) AG
Vienna
Wholly owned subsidiary
Arab Bank AG
Frankfurt
Wholly owned subsidiary
Finance, Accountancy, Mohassaba S.A.
Geneva
Wholly owned subsidiary

2,778

Arab Tunisian Bank	64,24 % owner		
Arab Bank Maroc	50 % owned		
Oman Arab Bank S.A.O.	49 % owned		
Arab National Bank	40 % owned		

ARAB BANK, GENERAL MANAGEMENT, SHMEISANI, AMMAN, P.O BOX 9'30544-5. TELEPHONE: 660115, 660131. TELEX: 23091 ARABNK JO, FAX: (962) (6) 64/6793



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1993 was a year of change and expectations. The political environment took its toll on our customers' behavior. Anticipations and anxiety torced most investment expansion decisions to halt, while awaiting a more transperent and less ambiguous picture. Despite the high level of uncertainty in the world markets and the Arab world political arena, positive changes were observed in the structure of the balance sheet of Arab Bank Group. Total essets grew af 0.3%, and loan portiolio at 2.0%, while customer deposits remained at 1992 level. On the other hand, revenue rose to USS 414.1 million, recording an increase of 7.7%, and net income grew by US\$ 0.8 million, representing an increase of 0.8%.

# FINANCIAL POSITION

FINANCIAL REVIEW

**OVERVIEW** 

The following presents an analytical review of the most important changes in 1993 in the asset liability position of Arab Bank Group.

# Assets

Total assets rosa to US\$ 14,413.8 million from US\$ 14,374.2 million, representing, a 0.3% increasa. Off-balance sheet items, composed of crustomers' liabilities on guaranfees and letters of credit, grew by US\$ 221.4 million end 6.3%. The increase in both on-balance eheet and offbalance sheet assets augmented the total footing of the Group to US\$ 18,133.7 million.

## Liquidity

For the year ended :31 December 1993, submitted to the

General Assembly of Shereholders at the Annual Meet-

ing held at the Bank's Head Office Building, Shmeieani,

Arab Bank Group demonstrated in 1993 that it could contin-

ue to achieve good i esults under difficult and uncertain con-

ditions. The banking industry feced e number of challenges

during the year including severe unemployment and world-

wide tragite growth which persisted for longer than hed

been generally expected. An uncertain political picture in

the Middle East had elso impacted negatively the econo-

mies of the countries where we operate. Despite these and

other challenges. The Group achieved satisfying results in

At long last the industrialized world realized that the unem-

ployment problem can no longer be solved by the applica-

tion of economic theories that had been effective in the

past. Positive although weak growth was achieved by the in-

troduction of expansionist fiscal and monetary policies. Yet

solving the unemployment problem eluded the economic

planners. Except in e faw places, this problem stubbomly

continued to exist, recording 6.4% in the United States,

9.0% in Germany, 12.0% in France and 9.8% in the United

Kingdom. An open border policy transformed the labour

market into a global phenomenon in the real meaning of tha

term. Labour-intensive industries crossed bordars in search

of cheaper cost, thereby creating real and permanent dam-

age to the labour market in the more advanced countries.

The end of the Cold War lurther aggravated tha problem

when hundreds of thousands of young soldiers and delense

industry employees were released to enter the job market.

The outstanding trechnological davelopments in automation

as well as the releintless efforts of almost all industries to in-

crease efficiency and downsize worsened the problem still more. Many economists and social scientists attributed the

exacerbation of this problem to other factors such as the en-

try of a higher percentage of women into the job market in

It is unlikely that a permanent cure for this problem will be

found in the near future. Some researchers have started to

toy with solutions that may be described at best as tempo-

rary, including the reduction of working hours and continu-

ous efforts to increase economic growth, the problem is now

elso being discussed at the international level after being

Although the economically advenced nations found them-

selves in 1993; at different points of the economic cycle,

most of them enjoyed a lower rate of inflation and some

marginal growth. During1993 the consumer price index re-

corded 2.7% in the United States, an everage of 3.4% in

nine of the European Community countries, and 1% in Ja-

pan. At the end of the year the GDP index registered 2.8%

th the United States, 2.1% in the U.K. 0.5% In Japan and a

Interest rate differentials in major currencies declined to

tevels that may have been the lowest ever observed. At the

the European Community currencies was less than 2.7%.

The interest rate differential between the U.S. dottar and the

Anxiety prevailed in the foreign exchange market. Major

players were frustrated by their inability to predict the future

movements of the exchange rates. Ambiguity as well as

lack of direction in economic policies made forecasting of

exchange rates harder than ever. The U.S. dollar apprecial-

ed solidly throughout the year, while saveral economic and

After seven years of negotiations, the GATT talks, better

known as the Uruguay Round of the GATT, came to an end

during the last few days of December 1993. A successful

agreement opened the door to an increase in international

trade without unjustified discrimination in tariffs. It is hoped

that the agreement will enhance global growth and contrib-

Alter the adoption of a free market philosophy, the East-

em European countries are still looking for stable econo-

mies and meaningful success. Further ellorts to modernise

industry and to free the agents of production are still need-

ed. During 1993, howevar, most of these countries contin-

As expected, oil prices declined from their high level of

1992. Tha efforts by OPEC to limit their own production

were partially successful. The possibility of Iraq re-entering

the oil market looms heavily over prices, the impact of its re-

newed production has to be handled property, the price per

barral may declina below US\$ 10 unless other countries are

willing to cut production to accommodate the new quantity.

ued to suffer from political uncertainties and civil wars.

ute positively to solving international economic problems.

political factors depressed the Deutsche mark

Deutsche mark receded to 2.9% from 3.9%, which was re-

confined most of the time to local boundaries.

decline of 1.4% in Germany

corded at the beginning of the year.

addition to the exponential increase of young age groups.

Amman, at 10 a.m., Friday, 25 March 1994.

Dear Shareholders,

Business envirorment

The stability in customer borrowings coupled with tha increase in equity as well as the higher investment in money market instruments enebled tha Group to keep its liquidity at the previous year's level. The maintenance of high liquidity ratios is e major alement of the Group's prudent policies. The balance of cash in hand and at banks slightly declined, recording e 2.2% decrease to reach US\$ 7,865.6 million at the end of 1993 compared to US\$ 8,041.9 million at the end of 1992. Added to marketable securities, cash in hand and with banks represented 65.2% of total assets, a decline of 0.1% compared with tha 1992 figure.

# Securities and investments

The security portfolio, which consists mainly of prime govemment bonds and promissory notes, rose by US\$ 167.6 million, or 12.3%, in 1993. The balance of securities and investments at the end of tha year was US\$ 1,531.8 million compared to US\$ 1,364.3 million at the end of 1992.

The balance of loans and advances net of doubtful dabt allowance was US\$ 4,313.9 million at the end of 1993 compared to US\$ 4,227.4 million at the close of the previous year. The marginal growth of US\$ 86.5 million, or 2.0%, reflects the result of the Group's efforts to expand its prime quality lending. The success of its endeavours in this area was limited by three lactors. The first was fhe decline in the exchange rates of the operational currencies of ell the Group's units against the US\$, the Group's reporting currency, which diluted the high growth in local currencies. The reluctance of most of the customers in the Arab world to initiate new investments and borrowing activities during 1993 was the second major factor depressing growth in the Group's loan portfolio. The third factor was the low level of interest payable on the major currencies, which led customers to reimburse the value of their borrowing in local currencies, thus saving on Interest rate differentials and reducing outstanding balances of the loan portfolio.

# Shareholders' equity

Shareholders' equity rose by 6.9%, i.e., US\$ 68.1 million, thereby crossing the one billion US\$ mark to reach US\$ 1,061.1 million, compared to US\$ 993.0 million at the end of 1992. The decline of the exchange rates of both the Jordanian dinar and the Swiss franc against the US\$ negatively impacted the growth of the Group's equity accounts. The Jordanian dinar declined by approximately 2.0%, and the Swiss franc by around 0.1%. Hence Arab Bank Plc and Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd account for more than 90% of the total equity of the Group. Paid-in capital remained unchanged from its 1992 level. The Group will continue its successful build-up of the disclosed capitel base in the future. Shareholders equity fo total assets ratio was 7.4% at "" the end of 1993 compared to 6:9% at the end of 1992.....

The capital adequacy ratio, calculated according to the BIS rules, Improved its 1992 level, recording 13.21% com-

# Deposits

The total balance of deposits equalled US\$ 13,143.1 million compared to US\$ 13,148.3 million in 1992. Customer deposits were negatively effected to some extent by currency franslation; however deposits in local currencies observed a more positive growth rata in all the Group's entities. Furthermore, the relatively low level of interest rates on the major currency caused a shift in customers' investment stretegy from the money market into high yielding financial instruments and securities.

Funds placed with the Group from other financial institutions were confined to the needs dicteted by the correspondence banking activities.

# Results of operations

Arab Bank Group turned in another successful performance for the year that ended on 31 December 1993 despite the unlavorable conditions that prevailed throughout that year. Both net interest revenue and all components of noninterest revenue increased, except other revenue which declined slightly. The increase in operating expenses was contained within the normal operational needs of tha Group.

Net income before tax reached US\$ 185.3 million compared with US\$ 159.8 million at the and of 1992. This positive performance is attributable to the improved aaming power of most entitias in the Group. Income from associated companies improved also during 1993. Net Income after tax recorded a growth of 0.8% to reach US\$ 107.2 million compared to US\$ 106.4 million in 1992. Thie wes dilutad by the sizeable increase in provisions to meet all possible conditions resulting from bank operations as well as economic and politicel changes.

# Net interest revenue

Interest revenue reached US\$ 690.9 million in comparison to US\$ 729.8 million in 1992. inferest expense declined to USS 450.5 million. the decrease in both components of net interest reflects the lower global lavels of interest rates. Nat interest revenue increased by US\$ 18.2 million and 8.2% over 1992, representing a real growth in the earning power of the Group.

# Commission

Commission income grew by 10.9% to reach US\$ 79.1 million compared to US\$ 71.3 million in 1992. Tha increase in commission income reflects the outcome of the efforts made by the Group's entities to improve their commission earning products and meet the customers' growing needs lor traditional as well as new servicea.

# Foreign exchange revenue

Revenue from foreign exchange improved to US\$ 24.5 million compared to US\$ 19.4 million in 1992. The significant fluctuatione in the foreign exchange market, coupled with the Group's and customers' activities, contributed to the growth of revenue from foreign exchange in 1993.

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Othar revenue decreased by US\$ 1.4 million compared to the figure of US\$ 71.5 million recorded in the previous year. Part of this decrease reflects miscellaneous items that do not necessarily recur from year to year.

## Operating expenses

Total operating expenses eugmented to US\$ 248.8 million in comparison to US\$ 224.6 million for 1992. A comparative analysis of the componants of the operating expenses is

	tn US\$ million		
	1993	1992	Variance
Staff expenses	101.9	91,9	10.0
Depreciation	9.9	11.7	(1.8)
Provisions and other expenses	137.0	121.0	16.0
Total	248.a	224.6	24.2

The sum of US\$ 101.9 million in staff costs represents 41.0% of total operating expenses compared to US \$ 91.9 million and 40.9% of total expenses of 1992. The rise in staff costs by US\$ 10.0 million reflects tha generous increase of staff salaries, especially by Arab Bank Plc in Jordan, as well as cost-of-living adjustments. An additional amount was allocated to the staff indemnity fund to adjust for future axpectations.

tn 1993, deprectation expensas were lower than those in 1992. The US\$ 1.8 million decrease reflects the normal decline in depreciation axpenses of plants and equipment. During 1993 no significant changes took place in the structure of fixed assets or equipment of the Group .

Other expenses and provisions for the year reached US\$ 137.0 million compared to US\$ 121.0 million in the previous year. The usual operating expenses components of this amount were stable, growing at e normal rate during 1993. The provision components were increased to meet the high quality standards enforced by the management.

### PERFORMANCE OF THE GROUP'S **ENTITIES**

The Group's consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of Arab Bank Pic, Arab Bank (Switzerlend) Ltd, a sister company wholly owned by the shareholders of Arab Bank Pic, and the following wholly and majority owned subsidiaries of Arab Bank Plc.

- Arab Australia Ltd. wholly owned subsidiary.
- Arab Bank AG, Frankfurt, wholly owned subsidiary.
- Arab Bank (Austria) AG, wholly owned subsidiary, and - Arab Tunisian Bank, 64.24% owned.

The following paragraphs contain a brief description of the major ectivities of these entities.

# ARAB BANK PLC

Arab Bank Plc is registered in Jordan as a public shareholding company. 1993 was another successful year in the history of the Bank's 64 years of existence. Acceptable growth was observed in almost all espects of the Bank's financial position. Net Income Improved by 8.0% over 1992 reported figures.

# Results of operations

Total revenue of the Bank grew to JD 220.9 million from JD 195.0 million. The growth in total revenue was positively affected by all components of the Bank's revenue.

Net interest revenue, which constituted 64.9% of fotal revenue, improved to JD 143.3 million from JD 130.2 million in 1992. This increase represents a real growth in the earning power of the Bank as it was achieved under the unfavorabla conditions which prevailed in the world end in the Middle East during most of 1993, a period when a general decline in interest rates was also observed worldwide.

Nat income aftar tax for 1993 was JD 59.5 million compared to JD 55.1 million for 1992. The management of Arab Bank Plc decided to take all prudent measures in order to meet any contingencies that might arise from the impact of bank operationa and political uncertainties.

# Financial position

Shareholders' equity rose by JD 44.0 million to reach JD 432.0 million, as a result of income capitalization.

Total deposits recorded an increase of 6.3% and JD 413.1 million to reach JD 6,994.1 million. This improvement was completely dominated by customer deposits.

Tha structure of the Bank's assets was relatively altered in 1993 to give more weight to liquid assets. The Bank's assets in 1993 were made up as tollows:

	tn J.D. mitton			
	1993	1992	Variance	
Cash and market- abla securities	4,681.3	4,289.8	391.5	
Loans and advances	2,668.6	2,590.2	72.4	
All other assets	220.5	241.4	(20.9)	
Total assets	7,570.4	7,127.4	443.0	

Arab Bank PIc usually maintains high liquidity. The liquidity ratio (cash in hand and et banks and marketable securities to total assets) was 61.8% at the end of 1993 compared to 60.2% et the end of 1992.

# Other achievements

Arab Bank management worked to meet the new challenges that may amerge from the peaca process in the Middle

East. The development of operational strategies as well as the Identifying of new objectives within the general frame of the Bank's mission wera incorporated in the plans of the Bank. Introduction of new products and services was a pri-

In September 1993, the Singapore branch successfully launched the Group's first equity investment fund. The AB Asia-Pacific Growth Fund is an open-ended investment vehicle registered in the British Virgin Islands. The goal of the Fund is to achieve long-term capital appreciation, mainly by Investing in equities listed on the stock exchanges of the Asia-Pacific region. The Fund is open to investors seeking exposure to the dynamic economy of that region.

Furthermore, Arab Bank Intamational Fund, which was launched in December 1989, continued to show solid reaults. Thia Fund was offered with two share classes, a Managed Currency Fund and an International Bond Fund. On its fourth anniversary, the returns to initial shareholdars were 33.3% (8.3% p.a.) and 39.2% (9.8% p.a.) respectively. Both funds are conservatively managed but nevertheless have renked in the top performance quartile for similar funds.

TOTAL TOTAL

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The bonded warehouse serving Arab Bank'a customers in Jordan was completed during 1993. It will anable clients to defer payment of customs duty as long as they are not utilizing the bonded goods. It will also enable them to import larger quantities, thus saving on transactions costs.

Arab Bank employs highly qualified and experienced personnel. At the end of 1993, the number of employees were 4,134 in comparison to 3,910 in 1992, and the number of participants in training courses were 6,524 to comparison to 5,428 in 1992.

Special emphasis is placed on eutomation. Two new computer centers were established in 1993 in Madrid and Frankfurt; also, the computer equipment of the following centers was renewed: Amman, Sana'a, Rome, Singapore and Geneva. In addition to automating traditional banking services, the Bank continued to offer advanced computerized services in new locations.

Arab Bank branches in Aden and Madrid started full operations during the year in addition to several branches and offices in Jordan.

# ARAB BANK (SWITZERLAND) LTD.

Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd. was constituted as an independent company in 1962 and has a recognized Swiss bank status. The Head Office is located in Zurich with a branch in Geneva. The Bank's 3,100 shareholdars are identical to those of Arab Bank Plc.

Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd. is an enterprising, dynamic bank with a clear business concept combining Swiss tradition and standards of quality In private banking with a global perspective. It offers private banking services and has built an excellent reputation in the successful management of clients' assets:

# **Financial position**

Total assets as of December 31, 1993 Increased marginally to Sfr. 1.648.3 million. Inferbank business as well as total outstanding overdrafts and fixed loans, which do not contain any perceptible risk, remained at about last year's level.

Investments in securities were increased, in perticular medium-term bonds, by Sfr. 41.1 million to Sfr. 236.7 mil-

The investment division expanded its portfolio management and investment counselling business. Fiduciary deposits decreased from Sfr. 4,732.2 million to Sfr. 4,058.9 million, mainly due to a shift of funds into higher yielding investments.

Higher incoma from foreign exchange operations and a strict control of costs contributed to the satisfying net profit which, after depreciation and provisions of Sfr. 13.1 million (1992: Sfr. 12.9 mitlion), amounts to Sfr. 16.6 million (1992: Sfr. 15.5 million).

Net commissions diminished from Sfr. 21.4 million to Sfr. 19.5 million, mainly due to lower earnings from fiduciary de-

# ARAB BANK (AUSTRIA) AG

Arab Bank (Austria) AG was established in February 1987 in Vienna as a licensed Austrian commercial bank and commanced operations in May 1987. It is wholly owned by Arab Capital Investment (Luxembourg) SA, a wholly owned subaidiary of Arab Bank Plc. Arab Bank (Austria) AG provides a wida range of services to individuals, corporate end institutional clients, government agancies and other international financial institutions.

An increase of 17.2% in revenues coupled with strict control of expenses enhanced the results of Arab Bank (Austria) AG in 1993. Net income after tax increased to ATS 5.1 million from ATS 1.5 million, recording an increase of ATS 3.6 million or 241.6%.

The Bank was also successful in the management of its balance sheet. Overall growth, without contra accounts, was 8.5% and 11.0% after the inclusion of the off-balance sheet items. In anticipation of the decline in interest rates in the money market, investment in prime bonds was increased to ATS 135.3 million from ATS 34.9 million. The loan portfolio was also increased by 48.2% to reach ATS 38.3 million. Deposits and other accounts grew by 8.8% to reach ATS 2,251.6 million. The equity base of the Bank was enhanced by ATS 5.1 million, recording ATS 121.0 million.

# ARAB AUSTRALIA LTD.

Arab Australia Ltd. is a merchant banking subsidiary of Arab Bank Pic established in 1986. In addition to the Sydney office, it has three suburban branches in Bankstown, Parramatta and Campsie. An application was submitted to fhe regulatory euthorities to transform Arab Australia Ltd, Into a fully licensed commercial bank. After approval, the authorized and paid-in-capital will be increased to AUD 50 million.

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page

1993 was e good year for the Bank. Net income reached AUD 1.2 million, a significant improvement on 1992. This was the result of the Bank's incraased retail activities to the Arab Community and its involvement in financing trade between Australia and the Middle East.

Total assets grew by 46.8% to reach AUD 128.3 million. The loan portfolio comprised 83.0% of the assets at the end of 1993; e majority of these loans are to the Arab Community residing in Australia. Deposits and other accounts reached AUD 107.5 million, thus recording a growth of AUD 29.6 million or 38.0%. Shereholders' equity was increased to AUD 20.9 million from AUD 9.7 million.

### **ARAB TUNISIAN BANK**

Arab Tunisian Bank was incorporated in 1982. It provides its customers with a wida range of commercial and private banking activities. Arab Tunisian Bank has a material percentage of the banking business in Tunisia. The Bank has 25 branches located in all major cities and business centers in eddition to its head office, which is situated in Tunis. Six branches were opened during 1993; Nahrawes (Hammamet), Le Kram, Ariana, Chorbene, Sousse Khezama and Sfax Grenda.

During 1993, Arab Tunisian Bank continued its solid performance. Total revenue grew by 19.3% to reach TUD 42.3 million. Net income after tax for the yeer reached TUD 5.1 million compared to TUD 4.6 million in 1992, representing an increase of 11.9%.

Total assets expanded to TUD 491.4 million from TUD 424.4 million. The Bank's balance sheet total including contra accounts was increased to TUD 666.3 million compared to TUD 598.4 million at the end of 1992. In harmony with tha authorities' endeavours to achieva economic growth, tha Bank increased its loan portfolio by 21.2% to reach TUD 293.9 million. Deposits end other accounts grew by 17.7%, reflecting the efforts of the management to expand its external sources of funds. Shareholders' equity including net incoma reached TUD 26.5 million compared to TUD 24.2 milfion at the end of 1992.

In 1993, Arab Tunisian Lease was incorporated with a capital of TUD 6.0 million. It is controlled by Arab Tunisian Bank which has e participation of 55% of its capital. IDEE, e data processing company of Arab Tunisian Bank, which was incorporated in 1992, is now fully operational.

### ARAB BANK AG

Arab Bank AG in Frankfurt, a wholly owned subsidiary of Arab Bank Plc, was incorporated in December 1992. The Bank started operations in April 1993 with e full commercial banking license and tha ability to branch in the EC. Accordingly, it is expected that Arab Bank AG will play a significant role in promoting Arab European trade and economic cooperation. The Bank's authorized and paid-in-capital is DEM 50.0 million, It provides its customers with a full range of banking services including investments end treasury

During its first six months of full operations, the Bank was

able to augment its assets to DEM 150.2 million and the balance of its letters of credit and letters of guarantee to DEM 55.6 million. At the end of 1993 the Bank's balance sheet including contra accounts reached DEM 205.8 million. The funds were mainly composed of DEM 102.2 million in deposits and other accounts and DEM 50.0 million in capital.

Total revenue for 1993 reached DEM 4.2 million, a loss of DEM 2.1 million being recorded for the year. The negative results are within the expectations of the management due to the limited period of operations as well as to the write-off of establishment expenses. There is strong evidence that the performance of the Bank in the coming years will be much better, taking into consideration the volume of its business and the good relations between Germany and the Arab

The Board of Arab Bank Pic takes this opportunity at the end of its term of office to express its appreciation to the customers of Arab Bank Group for their trust and confidence and to the staff for their loyalty end dedicated work.

The Seard of Directors

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# Mexico becomes OECD member

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico's President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said Thursday his country has joined the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), also known as the "ricb nations' club."

Today, Mexico has joined one of the most important economic organisations in the world, the OECD," Mr. Salinas said in a speech at the presidential residence Los Pinos.

The surprise announcement was likely to give a much-needed boost to Mexico's economic stature, which has been battered by a peasant uprising in the southern state of Chiapas and Wednesday's assassination of ruling presidential party candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio.

Mexico has been lobbying for some time to join the OECD, a Paris-based think tank whose members include the world's richest nations. Mexico's inclusion will raise OECD membership to 25

The last country admitted was New Zealand in 1973. "Membership to the OECD will give Mexico greater presence among industrialised nadons, particularly in Europe,

Mr. Salinas said in a speech.
The OECD recently published a report on Mexico outlining the country's remarkable transformation from a mainly rural, commodity-exporting country in 1940 to the world's thirteenth largest economic

power today. 8-2 As of 1992, Mexico's per capita income — measured as purchasing power parity — is in the range of that of the lower-income OECD countries, such as Greece, Portugal and Turkey, it said.

There had been bumps along the way, not least in 1982 when Mexico defaulted on its external debt, setting off the whole Third World debt crisis, but the outlook was now bright,

the report said. OECD head of economic studies Stephen Potter said recently Mexico's successalowed much to the balancing of the state budget under Mr. Salinas. In the 1980s the deficit reached the equivalent of 17 er cent of gross domesi duct (GDP).

. "This is an achievement ungeralleled in OECD coun-

tries." Mr. potter said.
That fiscal stabilisation, plus

# France to use TV in fight against unemployment

PARIS (R) — The French government, wrestling record unemployment, said it was enlisting state television to help bring the jobless numbers down by broadcasting job offers and tips for the unem-

ployed. With 3.3 million people out of work. France has a record unemployment rate of 12.2 pet cent of the workforce. The jobless rate among young people is twice as high.

Communications Minister Adain Carignon told reporters would broadcast up to 12 hours a day of job offers, tips for the unemployed and reports about unemployment, for a three week trial period from March

The new programme, dubbed "Telemploi" (Jobs TV), comes amid increasingly vio-lent street profests by young people in Paris and the provinces against a new wage law. aimed at increasing the num-

**Eber** of jobs for the young by cutting the minimum wage. Some 65 million francs (\$10.6 million) have been set aside for the new programme.

including television advertisements about it on other channels. Mt. Carignon said. The jobs programme will be broadcast during the day on a channel currently used solely

in the evening by the Franco-German art cultural station. which airs acclaimed highbrow programmes but has few viewers.

Labour Minister Michel Giraud called on journalists who will devise the new programme to "be everything except institutional sounding".

"Be impertinent." he said. Some of France's main employers, including EDF state electricity board and Aerospatiale aircraft and missile maker, are involved in designing

the new jobs programme.

# the rescheduling of its external debt in 1989 and 1990, per-

take off, The world's biggest privatisation programme and trade reforms also played a part in the Mexican recovery, culmi-nating in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAF-TA) with the United Slates and Canada which took effect Jan. 1.

suaded investors to return to

Mexico, allowing growth to

Still, rural poverty, preca-rious employment conditions and addressed, the OECD said in its report.

Meanwhile, the United States set up a \$6 billion credit line for Mexico in a vote of confidence in the country following the assassination of its leading presidential candidate. The so-called swap facility

 which will be supplied equally by the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve is designed to help Mexico protect its currency from speculative attacks.

"We're prepared to try to help," President Clinton told a news conference.

He said that Mexico's in-stitutions remain "fun-damentally strong" despite the assassination.

Under the \$6 billion swap facility set up by Washington. the United States will swap dollars for pesos with Mexico so that the Latin American country has enough foreign exchange reserves to head off a run on its currency.

The swap will be unwound at some point in the future when pressure on the Mexican currency abates.

Vice President Albert Gore said Colosio's death would not stall the Mexican economy or harm NAFTA.

"I don't expect any of those things at all," the vice president said in an interview on

# DM, yen trade in narrow ranges against the U.S. dollar

This report is submitted by Naser Nahuki, private client group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai

Fundamental view: The Japanese yen and Deutschemark both traded in unusually narrow ranges against the dollar this week in the absence of unexpected news on key economic fundamentals. The yen is awaiting developments in the ongoing U.S.-Japan trade dispute. Prospects for large Japanese current

account surpluses to persist suggest that yen strength will continue and possibly intensify over the coming year.

We maintain our six-month target of JPY/U.S.\$ 100 and our 12-month target of JPY/U.S.\$ 95. The DM is awaiting news on U.S. and German monetary policy developments. The 25 basis point hike in the U.S. federal funds rate on Tuesday and the eight basis point cut in the German repo rate on Wednesday were both widely anocipated and consequently had little impact on the DM/U.S.\$ exchange rate.

We expect the mark to depreciate to DM/U.S.\$ 1.80 ln 12 months because we believe the decline in short-term German interest rates will exceed market expectations.

Technical view: In last week's comment we suggested that short term oscillators for the U.S. dollar index were oversold. This condition likely provided much of the ammunition for the most recent strength. For the week ended March 18 the index gained 0.7 per cent as the greenback rallied against each of the six major currencies that we most regularly monitor. Even though medium term oscillators are still weak (and are expected to remain so far a while longer), upwardly biased short term oscillators are no worse than neutral.

This suggests that last week's rally may have more life left in it. Once this strength runs out, we would look for renewed weakness to at least test the recent low at 93.62. If that low is broken, further weakness to the 92.80 area would not be surprising. Although important resistance soll exists at 97.50-98.00, there is now interim resistance at 94.90-95.80.

## Japanese Yen

Fundamental view: The yen continued to trade in a surprisingly narrow range near 106 JPY/U.S.\$ this week. The yen appeared insensitive to news regarding U.S. monetary developments. That is consistent with our position that growth and interest differentials have little impact on the yen at times, such as the present, when Japan's current account surplus reaches extreme levels. The market is focusing almost exclu-

political power.

There have been occassional

reports of labour unrest, and

the government has acknow-

ledged that working conditions must improve at factories.

Two strikes over pay were

reported last year at Japanese

owned-factories in southern

China. Official media has re-

ported on alleged mistreat-

sively on U.S.-Japan trade frictions, and there has been no evidence of a change in U.S. dissatisfaction with progress to date despite a successful resolution of the cellular phone

Even if Japan agrees to satisfy most of the U.S. demands for market access, we still expect a current account surplus of nearly \$120 billion this year. That should help the yen to continue to trade in the JPY/U.S.\$ 100-110 range for most of this year. We expect the yen to reach a new high of JPY/U.S.\$

Technical view: The Japanese yen fell 1.0 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. This currency has been on the defensive for a month, but medium term momentum remains constructive. Now that short term oscillators are bottoming, the currency is in position to resume its long term uptrend. Against this momentum background, senoment indicators are still no worse than neutral. On balance, therefore, we continue

to think that a challenge of the recent yen highs is still likely. In that regard, a rally much through 101 JPY/U.S.S would allow for at least 98. Benchmark support remains 113-114, but intervening support at current levels and again at 109-110 should be more important reference points in coming weeks.

## Deutschemark

Fundamental view: The Deutschemark continued to trade in a narrow range near DM/U.S.\$ 1.69 this week, awaiting news of monetary developments in the U.S. and Germany. The 25 basis point hike in the U.S. federal funds rate on Tuesday and the eight basis point cut in the German reporate on Wednesday were both widely anticipated and consequently had little impact on the DM/U.S.S exchange rate. A more dramatic Bundesbank policy move, such as a discount rate cut, appears to be constrained by M3 growth well above the target range. Favourable news on M3 is unlikely in the near term, dimming prospects for a discount rate cut and a sbarp weakening in the DM.

But we expect the mark to depreciate to DM/U.S.\$ 1.80 in 12 months because we believe the decline in short-term German interest rates will exceed market expectations. Technical view: The Deutschemark lost 0.6 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended March 18. While medium

term momentum remains constructive and sentiment is only neutral, short term momentum is turning down from an overbought condition. Thus, even though there should still be more life left in the rally from the February lows, immediate pressures should to be the downside. The former resistance at

of 1993.

1.694-1.704 DM/U.S.\$ should now act as support; beyond that, we would look for something closer to 1.72.

A raily back through 1.679 would allow for 1.65-1.66. The

mark/yen cross spent last week trading in the 62-63 range. While short term momentum now peaking, medium term oscillators remaining down, and 62.50-63.00 continuing to act as both chart and momentum resistance, the post-February rally may well bave peaked. With downward pressures mounting, a break below 59 would nominally set the stage for

### **Pound Sterling**

Fundamental view: The British pound continued to fall against the Deutschemark this week to DM/GBP 2.51, weighed down by speculation about a near-term interest rate cut to mitigate the impact of April tax hikes. The pound is now 11 pfennigs below its recent early-January peak versus the DM. Recent data indicate weakness in retail sales and consumer sentiment. but surprising strength in the labour market should help to

maintain consumer confidence.

We expect the pound to rise to DM/GBP 2.70 in 12 months as short-term DM interest rates fall by 150 basis points compared to little or no fall in sterling rates. The pound continues to trade at U.S.\$/GBP 1.49. We expect the pound to depreciate to U.S.\$/GBP 1.46 in 12 months as short-term

dollar interest rise modestly.

Technical view: The British pound declined 0.6 per cent versus the U.S. dollar last week. Sentiment is now neutral and with medium term momentum continuing to offer little definition, the top in short term oscillators takes on added importance. While a move back to 1.48-1.49 :/U.S.\$ or lower would not be surprising, our longer term parameters remain unchanged.

A decisive breakdown from the trading range (i.e., below \$1.46) would allow for at least a test of the 1993 low near \$1.43 and possibly long term support at \$1.40-\$1.42. The \$1.50-\$1.51 range is the viewed as first resistance. A rally through second resistance at \$1.55 would set the stage for a challenge of the long term benchmark at \$1.60. The DM cross-rate dropped to a new 1994 bow last week. Both short and medium term momentum oscillators are now weak. Support is at 2.50-2.51. Resistance bas been lowered to 2.56-2.57.

# Arab fund lends Syria \$87m for power

DAMASCUS (R) - The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development bas agreed to lend Syria 30 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$87 million) to finance an electricity project.

Abdul Latif Al Hamad, board chairman and director-general of the Kuwait-based fund told Reuters the loan, to help Syria overcome power shortages, bad a soft interest rate of 3.5 per cent. It is replayable in 20 years with a five-year grace.

Sheikb Hamad and Syrian minister of state for planning signed the accord at a ceremony in Damascus.

Officials said the money would belp fioance construction of three gas-fed electricity generation units in the Zayzon area near the central city of Edleb, some 300 kilometres north of Damascus. The \$126-million project has already been awarded to Italy's Fiat group and construction is to start shortly. It will be completed in 16 months, with the first unit going into commission two months earlier.

The project is part of a \$1.3 billion scheme the government he launched to build new generation capacity of about 1.80 megawatts to meet a shortage which forced power cuts of arous six bours a day. Rationing was reduced recently to around recently a day.

JUMBILE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Miles Argirion

# Paris Club agrees to cut Ivory Coast debt in half

said.

of official creditor nations has agreed to cut Ivory Coast's debt in half, the French economy ministry said Friday.

Ivory Coast has total external debt of some \$21 billion, making it the world's most indebted country in per capita

The Paris Club accord follows an agreement between the West African nation and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), oo economic re-

The agreement to cut the debt in half - so-called Trinidad terms of debt relief - is better than Ivory Coast might have expected. It is ranked as a

RIYADH (AP) — The price

of satellite disbes has more

than doubled in this conserva-

tive Muslim kingdom ever

since the government imposed

a ban on them earlier this

Shopkeepers who continue

to clandestinely install the dis-

hes are charging more than 7,000 riyals (\$1,866), com-

pared to a pre-ban cost of 3,000 riyals (\$800) for a simple

The price of receivers, which

are needed to decode recep-

tion signals into images and sound, have also skyrocketed

from 850 riyals (\$227) to 1,500

riyals (\$400) for a U.S.-made

Although the Mareh 10 ban

threatened violators with fines

of up to 500,000 rivals

(\$133,000) and confiscation of

their equipment, it did not specify whether compliance

Even before the ban satellite

dishes were never officially

sanctioned, but thousands

Most hotels, housing com-

plexes and individual homeow-

ners have yet to comply with

the ban. Some houses have two

or three dishes installed on

rooftops to pull in more than

100 stations from around the

Even before the ban, many

owners had been hiding the

dishes inside brick walls or

under sheets of tarpaulin for

fear of the "muttawa," the

volunteer religious police,

which considers them to be

The so-called "keepers of

was retroactive.

were sold.

un-Islamie.

PARIS (R) — The Paris Club middle-income country, while Trinidad terms are usoally offered only to the poorest countries.

BELIING (AP) — More than 10,000 labour disputes buffeted communist China last

year, forcing the government

to launch a nationwide inspec-

tion of factory working condi-tions, an official report bas

The campaign is a sign of

grave government concern that

growing labour unrest could

threaten social stability and the

France bowever had promised at the time of the devaluation of the CFA franc in January to press for the best possi-ble terms of debt relief for franc zone countries, particularly middle-income countries.

Less than balf the external debt is owed to official creditors represented by the Paris Club, according to the latest World Bank figures available.

The economy ministry said the Paris Club met on March 23 to discuss Ivory Coast's debt. The French treasury acts as secretary to the Paris Club.

the faith" went around

smashing dish antennas on pri-

vate apartment blocks in the

capital to stop what they saw as

a cultural invasion from the

In this conservative kingdom

which is ruled by Islamic laws,

the state-run television even

cuts out scenes of couples

"(Paris Club members) welcomed the implementation. with the support of the International Monetary Fund, of an ecocomic adjustment prog-ramme and took note of the very weak per capita income in Ivory Coast and the very big cost of its debt, justifying, in this case, exceptional treatment in terms of debt restruc-

stock of debt.

satellite dishes.

turing," the ministry statement The restructuring will be designed to cut the net present value of the debt by 50 per cent. Creditor nations also agreed to meet in three years' time to discuss Ivory Coast's

holding hands from foreign

The ban by the council of

ministers outlawed the import,

manufacture or installation of

cable system to ensure what is

watched by Saudis "conforms to religious and social values,"

It announced plans for a.

line of endeavour.

China shaken by labour disputes in '93, report

Make plans to have more income in the days ahead. Take time to improve your appearance and you can easily impress others especially higher-ups. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to

future. A wiser attitude toward a loved one brings excellent results

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Handle any civic duties ahead of you early in the day and

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

and loved ones later. Cooperate more with others. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

GEMINE: (May 21 to June 21)

July 21) You can now plan how to have added abundance in the

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study the amount of effort seeded to gain an important goal. Show that you will go to

tszzfust in the first six mooths

China Daily provided no in-formation on the nature of the

disputes other than to cite as

an example a joint venture hotel in Sbenzhen that owed

238,000 yuan (\$27,300) in back

The inspection tour of fac-

tories will ruo from April

through June, the report said.

salaries to employees.

GENERAL TENDENCIES: later you can enjoy the social in any endeavour. LIRRA: (September 23 to Octo-ber 22) Look over your sur-roundings and make plans for

improvement. Be sure to control your temper at all times or you could hurt the ones you love. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Plan how to complete your regular chores with fewer interruptions and more efficiency. Study statements for possible errors in your favour. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You could easily make a costly mistake where mes are concerned so be on

the alert. Engage in your favourite bobby and find much CAPRICORN: (December 22 to CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You may find it hard to get things done early in the day, but later you can make up for lost time. Strive for increased

happiness and harmony. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get an early start on the tasks you have to do instead of complaining and you get fine benefits from it in the long run. Be logical in your, thinking.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Others around you may seem pessimistic about the future, but don't let this influence you. Maintain a cheerful manner in face of any adversity.

# HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MARCH 26, 1994

AM till late afternoon make this a good period for getting together with progressive friends who can give you interesting ideas on how to advance in your

foreign managers, particularly

those from neighbouring

China Daily quoted the labour ministry as saying the

number of labour disputes

The newspaper cited a China

electronic news report saying.

there were more than 10,000

labour disputes last year. It

reported 2.353 disputes in the

southern boomtown of Shenz-

Taiwan and Hong Kong.

soared last year.

-ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Attending to routine chores early in the day will give you more time to be with congenial friends

Your hunches are not good early in the day but later they are most helpful. Join good friends for recreational purposes and have a

any length to please the one you love with much affection.

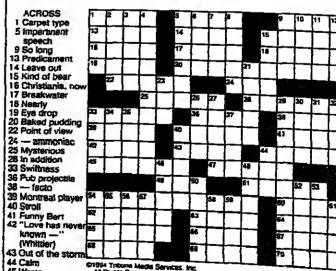
# Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form **GINES** RAFOL INREET WAS SERVED COLD IT LEFT HIM

**MYSLOB** 

Now arrange the circled letters to

Print answer here: Jumbles: BANAL COLON SPLEEN IMBUED Answer: What did the janttor do when he won tha lottery? — HE CLEANED UP

# THE Daily Crossword by George Urquhart



44 Calm 45 Wrote 47 Treeless plan 49 Tast site 51 Shoulder

54 1452 snap.
50 Fedora material 15 Picasso
52 Toward the left, 21 Well-dressed
nautically 23 Majors of TV
52 Pishhook sip 26 Matinee — 64 Ripering agent 27 Artist's stand 65 Embankment 29 Menu 66 Catchall phrase: 30 October abbr.

67 Asian staple 68 Salver 69 Freeway strip DOWN 1 Discharged 40 "Call Ms \_\_\_"
2 Hebrew propnet 44 Black cuckoo
3 Part of EAP 46 Gladden 5 Dark and

birthstone 31 Job-safety agoy 32 Conservative 33 Rattletrap
34 Wheel shaft
35 Pair of mules
37 Lively dance
40 "Call Ms —"

Puzzle Solved:

50 Tower of — 54 — of the earth 52 On the up-and-53 Exclusive group 56 Vanable star 57 Canasta card

# Peanuts

Prices soar following Saudi

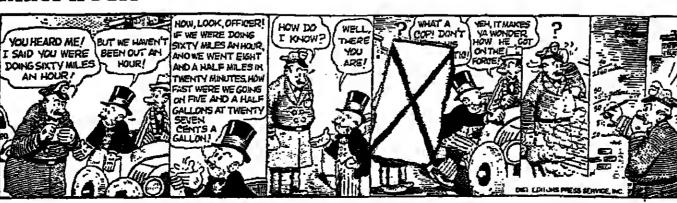
ban on satellite dishes







# Mutt'n'Jeff



CONTRACT - E TAND				
	THADING	PREY.		CLOSTING
	12) AOT 1302	CLOSUM: PRICE	PRICE	PRICE
ANA BARK				
PORTAGE MATTOMAL BARK CAIRO ANGON BANK	1,293,525 442,324	7.876		
HIDDLE PAST THURSDAY	11,900	35.500		8.900 55.900
APPOSTRIAL DECETORISM AND ADDRESS.	251,603	2.500	3.520	7-380
CEE BOUSING BANK COMMAN GREET BANK	244,# <u>18</u> 69,923			
ARAD JORDAN THURSTANDS DAVING	677,346	7.350	3.400	2.200
PORDAM ISLANIC BANK	71.075 23,500	6.50e 4.600		4.500
CHILD'S BASE FOR SAVING C	3,215,075	4.350	6.380	6.480
POSINESS MARK JORGAN INVESTMENT 4 PIRAMER MARK	17,113 34,672		5.150 4.750	
	224,762	8.200	8.000	8.250
	18,022 1,445,346	4.858 2-110	4- <b>63</b> 0	4-820 3-840
PRITADELDRIA INVESTMENT BANK.	791,601	2.486	2-580	2.470
ARABIAN SEAS INCURANCE	203 810	2.450 2.600	2.600 3.600	2.900 2.600
JORDAN FRENCE THEODORICE UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	285,762			
YARMOUT INTURANCE L BETWEEN MANY	#7# 49,700	2.038 3.400	2.130 3.550	2.230 2.500
NOLY LAND DESURANCE ARAB LIPE 4 ACCIDENT DESURANCE	652	3.26#		
JOHNA GULF INSTRANCE	90,242 18,652	3.000	3.506	
JORGANIAN ELECTRIC POMER TESID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	494,722		3,500 2,330	3.420 2,240
VEHICLES OFFERS PEDERATION	18,059 . 8,115			1.340 7.756
ARAB IFIEREXTICUAL MOTELS	20,331			
JORDAN RATIONAL SHIPPING LINES JORDAN TOWNERS & EPA COMPLEY	41,677 5,464			
MATICULAL POSTFORIO SECTION TOTAL	938,036			
PERA PERFESSE & EQUIPMENTS LEASING	*.063			
TOTAL AND	41 45,30s		8.540 1.540	
JORDAN PRESS FORTMATION & MAINTENANCE	51,975	1.270	1.270	1.140
JOHNS PRESS & PURILIFIED /27-00000000	64.741 4.580	13.800 16.200		
DESTRUCTION PART & COMMODOR MOTELS ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	220,757	2.250	2.260	2-180
JOHNAN TORNOCO & CZGARZITZE	300,#14 3,234			
CTARGED CORST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	21,176	1.710	1.710	1.718
INC JORDAN CENTENT PACTORIES JORDAN PROSPRATE NINES	318,373 4,309		2.120 2.620	
FORDAM PETROLEUM REFINARY	61,442	10.340	10.270	10.300
Jordan Tainting 	18.768 2,272	#. 000 2-130		#.600 2-180
THE INTESTRIAL CONSTRUCTAL & MORICULTURAL	42,116	7.056	7.100	7.086
THE JORDAN MORSIED MILLS ARAB PHARMCEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	#60,154 372,622			
FORDAM CERANIC INDUSTRIES	49,018	4. 886	¥.750	6.620
FORDAM DATEY THE JORDAM PIPES MANUFACTURING	28,028			
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD PACEDRIZES	87,671 83,392	4.500	4.200	
THE PUBLIC RIVING	21,280	3.000	3-060 21.100	
ARAB CHENICAL DEFERGENTS INDUSTRIES SPIRITING 6 VERYING	40,#10 #,217			
RAPIA INDUSTRIES	425,422	2.040		
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES DAR AL DANA, DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	60,24# #56,732	0.400 1#.900		0.496 17.800
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTROATIONAL TRADE	123,602	2.350	2.340	3.260
ARRB ALUMINIUM DODOSTRY GENERAL DEVESTIMENT	31*,472 7,000	10.100 3.500		
ARAB SAPER CONVENTING & TRADING	69,345		1.540	1.580
JORDAN MEDICAL COMPORATION	60,610 184,850			
MATICULAL STREET THOUSTRY INTERHEDIALS PRINCIPLES	34,437			3.180
JORDAN ROCKWOOL THOUSTREES	67,490		7.#10	7,700
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES ALADOIN INDUSTRIES	24,090 126,040	4,600	4.200	4.720
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MAICH/JUNCO	33,#27	1.170	1.100	
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE THOUSERS JORDAN WOOD ZHOUSTRIES & JVICO	#4,130 902	6-150	. 4,850	
MATIONAL CABLE & WINE MANUFACTURING	87,772	7,400	7.500	7.600
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS ARAB CERTER FOR PEARL, 4 CHEMICALS	16,416 711,211		3,380	3,330
JORDAN REPORT CO. FOR ACRI. 6 FOOD PROD.	19,432	1.130	1.290	1-150
MAINTER TWOSTHEAT	19,462 1,227,252		3.500	3,420
DEIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	-144,1434			

W. COT	PORCE			
CONTRACT S MANY	TRANSPORT POLINER JO	PRICE PRICE	PAICE	PRICE
CENTERL GENERAL TRADUES 4 STORMER JOSDAN TRADE FACILITIES NICHOLE RAST FOR DEVILS TRADE CO. 504 JOSDANIA EPOATRIAITES INVESTIGAT NOLDING SORDANI EPOATRIAI RESOURCES CO. MATICAL CELORISE INDUSTRIES COLUMN JORDAN ENS CAME COMPANY SERTIONAL MULTIPLE INDUSTRIES MI-LAY READY MEAN MANUFACTURING CO.	302,657 211,260 4,400 60,315 642,390 107,886 122,643 160,501 351,093	0.920 0.820 1.410 3.010 3.390 1.330 3.690 3.220	0.920 8.960 1.434 3.050 2.190 1.840 3.734 3.250	3.454 1.734 2.760 3.380
GRAND TOTAL	2,045,193			

16,164,201

Financial Markets

CRAMP TOTAL

**Jordan Times** 



Currency	New York Close Date 23/3/94	Tokyo CE05e Patr 24/3/94
Sterling Pound	1.4975	1.4955
Deutsche Mark	1.6815	1.6821
Swiss Franc	1.4275	1.4280
French Franc	5.7450	5.7457**
Japanese Yen	106.33	106.53
European Curreny Unit	1.1468	1.1460**

USD Per STG

Precious Metals				Date: 24/3/1994	
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	389.20	7.65	Silver	5-65	0.127

Date: 24/3/1994

	Bid	Offer
Currency		Olie
U.S. Dollar	0.7010	0.7030
Sterling Pound	1.0473	1.0525
Deutsche Mark	0.4163	0.4184
Swiss Franc	0.4905	0.4930
French Franc	0.1219	Ø. 1225
Japanese Yen*	0.6574	0.6607
Dutch Guilder	0.3702	0.3721
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira*	0.0421	0.0423
Belgian Franc	******	******

# LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) - Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday. (Tourist rates will differ from those quoted):

1.3761/71

1.6609/19

1.8697/07

1.4130/40

34.3/4.4 5.6920/70

1651.8/3.3

U.S. \$1.00 costs

Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

104.56/66 7.8250/50 7,2390/40 6.5470/20 \$1.4976/86 One sterling \$391.60/392.00 One ounce of gold

# AFM trading shoots up by 50% as investors return

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Trading at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) shot up more than 50 per cent during last week

**AGRICULTURAL** 

**PROFESSIONALS** 

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An American consulting firm, in conjunction with the

Ministry of Agriculture will be conducting a series of

studies related to the implementation of agricultural

policies of Jordan and is seeking expressions of

interest from individuals who are senior professionals

with extensive experience in their area/s of technical

Quantitative agricultural policy analysis methods.

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Agricultural economist (agricultural production

Services will be required on a part-time basis during

the approximate period of mid-April, 1994 through

Interested individuals should have excellent writing

skills in English and Arabic and should have experi-

ence working with a large professional international

Interested parties should submit their current CVs in

English to the Administrative Assistant at the National

Center for Agricultural Research and Technology

Transfer/Technical Assistance and Services Office

(TASO), P.O.Box 283 Baqa', Amman, Jordan, no later

expertise in the following fields:

resources/inputs).

mid-August, 1994.

- Agricultural research and extension

than 14:00 hours on April 4, 1994.

after investors came back in strength following the 'Eid Al Fitr holidays, figures released by the market showed.

The weekly trading report of the AFM showed that 5.4 millioo shares worth JD 18.2

million changed hands during the week ending Thursday, compared with JD 12.3 millioo for the week eoding March 10, the last full week of trading before the market took an extended holiday to mark the 'Eid.

Commercial bank stock was the highest area of investor interest, accounting for JD 7.8 million of the weekly volume, followed by the industrial sector with JD 7.5 million, the services sector with JD 2.4 million, and the iosuraoce sector with JD 400,000 or 2.2 per cent, the AFM report said.

However, the overall share price index dropped to 167.7 points from the 168.7 points posted at the close of the previous week. The index is based on the stock prices of 60 major companies listed in the market.

The separate industrial stock index dropped by 2.3 points, the service sector index weot up by 2.1 points, the insurance sector index

rose by 00.7 points and the commercial bank stock index dropped by 0.03 points,

according to the AFM report. Stocks of 87 companies were involved in the week's trading; at the end of trading on Wednesday, the last day of dealings at the market during the week, stock of 29 companies showed gains, 48 showed declines and 10 remained unchanged, the re-

port said. Nearly 115 companies with a total market value equity of JD 3.5 billion are listed in the market.

"Investors are coming back io strength after staying away during the holy month of Ramadan, and we could expect to see an added momentum in trading," said a broker, noting that many speculators abstain from trading in the market since they believe it is sacrilege to iodulge in speculation during the fastiog month.

On Wednesday, March 17, the only day of trading at the AFM during the 'Eid Al Fitr week, turnover rose to more than JD 5.5 million,

"Trading during that day was inconsistent with all givens in the market, as investors sought 10 acquire and stake positions after coming back from the holidays," said the broker, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with standing AFM regulations.

"Obviously they felt they had lost by abstention during Ramadan and explored all means to recoup the perceived losses," added the broker.

The AFM is widely seen as one of the liveliest in the Middle East. Although the daily volume there is far less than its counterparts in the Gulf states and io Israel, it serves as a close barometer of investor confidence in the Kingdom and prospects for peace in the region.

Regional and local events reflect immediately in trading in the market, whose liquidity rose dramatically with funds pumped in by Jordanian expatriates who returned from Kuwait following the Gulf crisis.

However, economists and officials differ on the boost in stock prices at the AFM. Some say that the prices were ioflated during 1993 as a result of increased liquidity, while others believe that the rise in prices purely reflect supply and demand.

Unlike the Al Manakh market of Kuwait which collapsed as a result of forward trading supported by cheques issued with no balances in the account, the AFM has enforced strict rules that warraot immediate payment in settlement of transactions.

"This is one of the best guarantees that every transaction is supported by real funds rather than postdated ebeques or ebeques issued without balances in the account as was the case in Kuwait," said a banking official who handles his bank's portfolio at the AFM.

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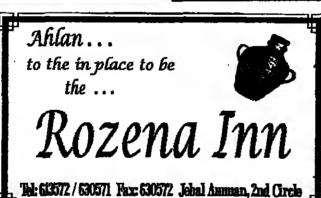
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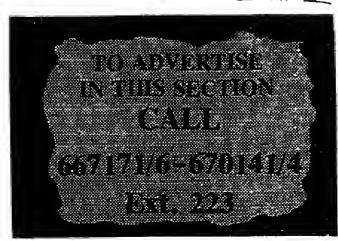
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# 40,000 ANC supporters march through violence-hit Durban

DURBAN, South Africa (Agencies) — At least 40,000 ANC supporters converged on the centre of Durhan Fnday to deniand the right to vote in violer:ce-racked Natal province in South Africa's first all-race elections next month. - The mainly Zulu crowd, car-

rying traditional weapons like clubs, sticks and spears, shouted their defiance at Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and his Inkutha Freedom Party which is refusing to take part in the polls.

Sporadic shots rang out as people streamed into Durban's Currie's Fountain Stadium under the weichful eyes of hundreds of police and peace moni-crs.

More than 19,000 people have died in political violence over the past 10 years in Natal. mainly in fighting between Inkatha and Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).
ANC officials told Reuters

they might have problems con-trolling the crowd if confronta-

A mortar shell believed to

have been fired by Serb forces

wounded two British soldiers

in the central Bosnian town of

Bugojno Friday, U.N. sources

the U.N. Protection Force in

Bosnia, were evacuated to the

British U.N. hospital in nearby

Vitez, one was believed to

Meanwhile, Croat and Mus-

iim civilians crossed front lines

in central Bosnia to visit sepa-

rated loved ones at home Fri-

day for the first time in more

. It was the latest chapter in a

gradual peace process follow-

ing a U.S.-borkered Croat-

Muslim agreement to set up a

bi-riational Bosnian Federa-

tion, building on a ceasefire

that entered its second month

One hundred people from

each side went over now calm

ttuce lines outside the

government-controlled town of

Travnik to spend up to 48

hours with relatives and friends

from whom they had been

separated by vicious communal

Serb Republic has refused to

join a Muslim-Croat Federa-

The self-proclaimed Bosnian

warfare.

than a year, witnesses said.

have suffered a broken leg.

They said the soldiers, with

tions broke out with Inkatha supporters during the march. ANC marchers were handed over a memorandum to officials of the multi-party Transitional Executive Council (TEC) demanding free political activity in Natal and the

Kwazulu homeland within it.

The TEC is overseeing the

run-up to the elections. South African troops on foot and in armoured vehicles patrolled Inkatha areas of townships around Durban to ensure ANC supporters were not prevented from boarding buses taking them into the

Durban remained gripped in the fear of an outbreak of violence as sbops closed before midday (1000 GMT) and children were sent back home after morning classes.

Indian Ocean port city.

President Frederik De Klerk told reporters in Johanneshurg Friday that he had set a meeting with Mr. Buthelezi, but would not give the time or venue, saving he wanted to keep discussions private and

tion and rejected any talks on

an overall peace settlement un-

til U.N. sauctions on Serbia

styled state's parliament

Thursday, which was expected,

follows the hijacking and loot-

ing of a U.N. aid convoy by

Bosnian Serbs who forced the

Danish drivers to walk across

what the Serbs said was a

audzcious in a series of pro-

vocations by local Serbs

against U.N. peacekeepers

since the threat of NATO air

strikes forced them to with-

draw or hand over their siege

guns overlooking Sarajevo last

In a separate development,

the Foreign Ministry of rump

Yugoslavia voiced concern Fri-

day at a U.N. Security Council

decision to send Turkish troops

It issued a statement saying

that by using Turkish soldiers,

U.N. Secretary General Bout-

ros Ghali "is not contributing

to peace hut is complicating

the situation and opening np

the possibilities of a rekindling

kish position on the Bosnian

crisis were "sufficient reasons"

It said history and the Tur-

of the conflict."

to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The hijacking was the most

The decision by the self-

Mortar wounds 2 U.K. troops in Bosnia

are lifted.

month.

A government spokesman said the meeting would be kept secret to allow for "relaxed discussions.

In addition to the Zulu traditional weapons, the ANC supporters carried posters.

Some Posters denounced Mr. Buthelezi as a "traitor" and demanded that be allow free political activity in the Kwazulu homeland, of which he is the chief minister.

More insulting were banners attacking Zulu King Good-will Zwelithini, whose proc-lamation last week of Natal-Kwazulu's sovereignty and call for a boycott of the polls raised temperatures and resulted in at least 100 deaths in six days. One poster showed the 46-

year-old monarch wearing nappies (diapers), implying that he is still a baby.

The early morning calm of this port city, where there was no trace of a rumoured IFP counter-demonstration, began to be disrupted as the crowd gathered, although the num-

against any sort of Turkish

military presence in ex-

Yugoslavia. Meanwhile 120 Russian pa-

ratroopers left their base at

Ryazan south-east of Moscow

for the Bosnian capital Sarajevo, where 400 Russians

are already deployed.

The Russian contingent is to

help guard the airport there.

the front line between Serbs

and Muslims, and heavy

weaponry surrendered to the

In a related development

An army that invaded and

occupies the northern part of

Cyprus cannot be used for

peaceful means, Mr. Papan-

dreou said in Athens during a

military parade marking the

173rd anniversary of the start

of the Greek revolt against the

"It is through the United Nations that Turkey is re-

entering, militarily and politi-

cally, the Balkan area and this

will be a destabilising force,"

Greek Defence Minister Gera-

simos Arsenis told Reuters in

He likened the U.N. Secur-

ity Council decision to hiring

"a wolf to watch the sheep."

Ottoman Empire.

an interview.

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou said the U.N. de-

cision was "unbelievable."

U.N. Protection Force.

bers hy midday (1000 GMT) were lower than the 50,000 predicted by the ANC.

Mr. Buthelezi told Johanneshurg's private Radio 702 Station that there would be no IFP counter-rally because "we never planned one."

He added, however, that "many lives have been lost" in the past few days and that be worried this may exacerbate the situation.

"There is a lot of tension and. volatility in the region," he said — compounded here by the overnight killings of seven people in Natal-Kwazulu, four of them in and around Durban, according to police.

Mr. De Kelrk said Thnrsday night that he would send militreinforcements to Natal and hinted at the possibility of declaring a state of emergency if the situation deteriorates.

Hearing Judge Kriegler's report made him realise that the picture in Natal-Kwazulu was more negative than my original impression," he said.

Lost U.K.,

Hong Kong

alive in

Borneo

troops found

KOTA KINABALU

Malaysia (R) — Five British

and Hong Kong soldiers mis-

sing for four weeks on South

East Asia's highest mountain

have been found alive, Malay-

sian and British officials said

A helicopter crew winched

two of the soldiers to safety out

of a mile-deep (1.600 metre) guily on the 4.101 metre

(13.450 feet) Monnt Kinabaln,

a spokeswoman for the British

High Commission (embassy) in

The three others could be

rescued by dark, she added.

A Malaysian helicopter

found the men around 10 a.m.

(0200 GMT) after an intensive

search involving an elite Brit-

ish Air Force team and hun-

dreds of Malaysian soldiers

The spokeswoman said three

of the missing soldiers were

seen standing and two were

lying down in rough terrain near a waterfall at the bottom

of Low's Gully, named for the

man who first reached the peak

"All five are alive but very weak," she said, "Medical sup-plies, hlankets and food have

A medical officer was lo-

wered by helicopter to the sur-

vivors near the bottom of

Low's Gully, a treacherous

mile-deep (1.600 metre) ca-

nyon down which the soldiers

Emergency teams were

standing by at a hospital in Kota Kinabalu, capital of

Malaysia's north Borneo state

Ywai Ki, 27, Chen Wai Keung,

24, and Cheung Yiu Kenng,

32. junior non-commissioned

officers in Hong Kong's Royal

They were part of a 10-man

team who had started a train-

ing expedition on Mount Kina-

Logistic Corps.

balu on Feb. 22.

been dropped to them."

had absciled.

of Kinabalu in 1851.

Kuala Lumpur said.

Ernesto Zedillo (left) coordinator of the political. campaign of Luis Colosio for the Mexican presidency helps carry his casket. Mr. Colosio was

inated at a campaign rally and Mr. Zedillo is considered to be one of the front-ru candidacy of president (AFP photo)

# Mexican presidential candidate slain tions, particularly in Europe,"

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico prepared Friday to hury slain ruling party presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio while national leaders took steps to shore np the

country's sagging image. Mr. Colosio's body was to be sent to his birthplace of Mag-dalena De Kino in the northern state of Sonora for burial following a day in which thousands here paid tribute to the man whose quest to suc-ceed President Carlos Salinas De Gortari was cut short by an assassin's builet.

As the Colosio drama unfolded, Mr. Salinas, in a surprise announcement sure to temper growing fears about Mexico's economic and political stability, said Mexico had achieved its long-standing goal Thursday of joining the Organisation for Economie Cooperation and Development (OECD), an exclusive club of some of the world's richest nations.

"Membership of the OECD will give Mexico greater pre-sence among industrialised na-

WASHINGTON (AFP) -

President Bill Clinton, keenly

aware of the Whitewater threat

to his image, went before the American public to admit that

mistakes were made, hut that

he and his wife are concealing

Cool and relaxed, Mr. Clin-

ton calmly fielded 45 minntes

of questions during a nationally

televised press conference

It will be business as usual

for the government, he said,

despite the stirrings caused by

the Whitewater affair, the

1970s Arkansas real-estate in-

vestment deal he and his wife

The near-scandal tone of the

proceedings has taken a toll on

Mr. Clinton's presidential im-

age, causing a 10-point plunge

After heing accused of

'arrogance of power," a few

hours earlier, by Iowa Repre-

sentative Jim Leach, the rank-

ing Republican on the House

Banking Committee which is

investigating Whitewater, Mr. Clinton, in the eyes of leading

Republicans, managed to score

House Republican whip

Newt Gingrich said that both

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Leach

were "very believable," hut

that the contradictory nature

of their statements made con-

gressional hearings into

"If the president has nothing

Whitewater imperative.

bave grown to regret.

in popularity surveys.

some points.

nothing.

Thursday.

Mr. Salinas said in a speech at the presidential residence of Los Pinos, stressing his country's determination to overcome the worst political assassination here in half a century.

Mr. Colosio, the 44-year-old candidate for the long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party and widely seen as a sure bet to win in August elections, was shot Wednesday after a campaign rally in a poor area of the border city of Tijuana.

He was hit with a bullet to the head and another to the stomach from a .38 calibre pistol and died three hours later while undergoing surgery.

Police said at least 10,000 people walked past Mr. Colosio's flower-strewn silver coffin while it lay in state Thursday in a funeral home here. In Tijuana, Attorney General Diego Valades said the prime murder suspect, Mario

Ahurto Martinez, 23, admitted he was the killer. But gave oo motive.

Clinton admits mistakes in Whitewater case

Mr. Gingrich said.

Mr. Aburto was transferred

to hide, then by midsummer

(Whitewater) will all be gone,"

Senate Republican leader

Bob Dole agreed and sug-

gested that his house of Con-

gress begin the hearings on

May 1, while Mr. Gingrich

Mr. Leach claimed that

hinted at mid-April for his.

funds from a failed Arkansas

savings and loan had been ille-

gally diverted to Mr. Clinton's

campaign coffers when he was

governor of that state, and that

them a substantial loss as they

claimed, had actually brought

But Mr. Clinton Thursday

announced that he would re-

back to 1977 this week, includ-

ing all the years he had invested in Whitewater.

his Whitewater losses to

\$47,300, saying he had "ge-nuinely forgotten" that he had

made a \$20,700 loan to his

mother for a cahin and another

personal loan for \$1,500.

He also revised downward

them a profit.

cords.

muzzle the investigation.

to a maximum security prison near Mexico City Thursday night, Mr. Vlades said. Mr. Aburto told investiga-

tors he bought the handgun several weeks ago with the intention of killing Mr. Colosio, Mr. Valades said. Mr. Aburto, a mechanie born in the poor southern state of Michoacan, put his gun up against the side of Mr. Colosio's head before firing the first, fatal shot, he added.

A PRI spokesman told Reuters it was likely the party would wait to select a candidate to replace Mr. Colosio until after the Easter holidays.

The Mexican Congress, in a special session Thorsday. approved a constitutional ebange to end the longstanding PRI domination of Mexico's main electoral

The change, aimed at ensuring cleaner elections, cleared the way for non-partisan citizens to form a majority on such bodies.

Mr. Clinton's apparent

openness about his personal

MOUNT VERNON, Wash

# huskies return to ancestral home

MONTREAL (R) — The last of the Antarctic Eskimo Hus-

# Australian premier announces

CANBERRA (AFP) - Australian Prime Minister Paul Kenting announced a farreaching government reshuffle Fuday, promoting a prominent feminist who is seen as his possible successor.

Carmon Lawrence, former West Australian premier, was appointed minister for human services and health and as the minister assisting the prime minister for the status of women. She took gver the Health

Ministry from Graham Richardson, a powerful member of the ruling Labour Party, who quit politics Thursday and said he saw Ms. Lawrence as a having a chance to become Australia's first woman prime Ms. Lawrence, 46, had a

Ffair show of leading the Labour Party after Keating. There's no doubt about that," 'Mr. Richardson told a radio finterviewer. Adding that Mr. Reating would remain for another three to four years Junless he was "hit by a hus." She has denied that she -wants the prime minister's job. saying last week: "Absolutely not because who knows how I will go - 1 might be a compicte failure.

Ms. Lawrence served as state premier for three years until her government was swept from office a year ago in a tide of corruption scandals that left her untainted.

She favours pressing ahead with plans initiated by Mr. Richardson to increase spending and restructure health services for the country's 265,000 ,aborigines

"That is a high priority for the Labour Party and Salah

Brenden Named, present of the Australian Medical Associatinn, said this week that he expected a minimum 100 million Australian dollars (\$71 miliion) would go to aboriginal health service provision in the May 10 budget.

PHNOM PENH (AFP) -Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk has called for fresh dialogue with the Khmer Rouge following bis country's offensive against their stronghold at Pailin, his foreign minister said Friday.

Prince Norodom Sirivudh. speaking after his return from Beijing, where he visited the king, said King Sihanouk was "in fine form" as he recovered from prostate cancer surgery in the Chinese capital.

The prince said of the Khmer Rouge: "We should not close the door on them. We have to give them the chance in return to the international community" and Cambodia should avoid "putting their backs to the wall."

"We have tried the policy of the carrot, of the open door and then that of the stick, but now we have to allow the Khmer Rouge the opportunity to come forward to talk," he added, describing his discus-

MOSCOW (AFP) - Two

hlack boxes from the Russian

airliner which crashed in Siber-

ia this week with the loss of all

75 people aboard have been

sent to Germany for decoding,

the Sevodnya newspaper re-

It said Russia lacked the

necessity equipment to read

off the flight recorders of the

iver of plane involved, an Air-

bus A310. There were only five

such planes in the country,

One hlack hox contains

radio traffie, the other technic-

al flight information. Special-

ists at the German airline

Lufthansa would examine the

recordings, the paper said. ITAR-TASS news agency

an is a crobinere for the

that appeared to have been a

sudden loss of pressure in the

cockpit, the Airbus crashed on

the Altayplateau near Mezh-

durchensk 400 kilometres

from the Mongolian border on

a flight from Moscow to Hong

pened.

ported Friday.

Sevodnya said.

government offensive launched on Pailin, in northwest Cambodia, earlier this month, and particularly about the abilty of Phnom Penh to keep control of the area.

added.

for under the peace pact.

# Sihanouk calls for fresh talks with Khmer Rouge

"His concern is justified, and I therefore have messages" for Co-Prime-Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh "about His Majesty's thoughts on Pailin," Prince Sinvudh

Khmer Rouge from 1970 until the Paris peace accord of 1991, "thinks it is not at all appropriate to involve itself in a little war" against the rebel movement.

sions with the king.
He said King Sihanouk was
"a little worried" about the

He said China, an ally of the

The dialogue between Cam-Russia plane crash black

### of Sabah, about 160 kilometres from the mountain. The missing soldiers are Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Neil, 46, and Major Ronald Foster, of Britain, and Lam

bodia's government and the Khmer Rouge has all hut broken down, as the guerrillas refuse to lay down their arms and allow access to territory under their control as called

# FAYETTEVILLE, NC. (R) - The commander of Pope

boxes sent to Germany Twenty bodies have yet to be found after Wednesday's mystery crash in Siberia, the Russian carrier's Hong Kong manager said Friday. the tragedy. Vassili Tkachenko told re-

porters that the nearly-new Airbus was nearly intact when it hit the ground in a remote area near the Mengolian bor-Officials in Moscow have not A U.S. Air Force F-16D jet

ruled ont terrorism as the reason why the aircraft - acquired only two years ago vanished after a suspicious 19minute break in radio contact with ground controllers. Mr. Tkachenko said the mystery could be solved once

the analysis of two flight data recorder, barra w Black type of miscommunication ecus. I communicate "Only after examination of the boxes could the reason be clear," he said. "It is an absolutely unusual crash. Everyone wants to know what haping the communication problem to human error, Gen. Floyd said: "Well obviously that is one thing the investigation will have to determine. But it obviously looks that

way."
The death toll resulting from Wednesday's mid-air collision at Pope Air Force Base rose to 20 and the number of injuries. cansed by falling dehris stood at 84, officials. All of the dead and injured

were army personnel serving at Fort Brago, and all of the aircraft belonged to neighbouring Pope Air Force Base. They share a military installation about 60 miles (95 km) south of Raleigh, the state capital. Safety officials at Pope Air

Force Base said its "higher headquarters," the 9th Air Force at Shaw Air Force Base, Suite Carolini 177 salely myssagaher, mam that would take over by Thursday

"This is the actual board that's going to do the safety investigation," Lientenant-Colonel Glen Williams, the tioned at Pope Air Force Base, told Reuters in a telephone

The investigation should take about 30 days and through

statements from witnesses just after the crash and "impounded anything and everything that is at all involved with preparing the aircraft to fly," Col. Williams said. Including training records of pilots, air traffic controllers and maintenance personnel.

finances stems, in part, from a change of tactics in dealing with Whitewater after special prosecutor Robert Fiske subpoenaed six White House officials to testify before a grand jury earlier this month. Mr. Clinton said he had no

knowledge of any illegal funding in his gubernatorial campaign, and categorically denied being involved in twisting the arms of federal regulators.

But while Mr. Clinton was

pressures had been recently unable to clear everyone's doubts over the Whitewater hrought on a federal agency prohing the bankruptcy to financial puzzle, he did make a strong moral defence of his The congressman also actions and those of his wife, alleged that the 1978 invest-Hillary. ment the Clintons made in Whitewater, far from causing

He said .this was: a typical middle-class family during the years he was governor of Arkansas, adding that he was proud of having been the least paid governor in the country.

The Clintons bave said they lost \$69,000 in the deal, a claim Mr. Clinton stressed again that was impossible to verify that while his wife was a promwithout seeing their tax reinent lawyer in Arkansas at the time, "if she did any work for the state, she never took any lease his tax records dating

pay for it." After all the facts come to light, he added, "Her moral authority will be stronger than it has ever been...'

The president promised to "fully cooperate" with Mr. Fiske and Congress in their investigations, adding that what he most wanted was to be able to resume working at bis normal pace.

# Miscommunication possible in U.S. military plane crash

Air Force Base where 20 paratroopers were killed by fiery debris from a mid-air collision said Thursday that buman error and miscommunication were among possible causes of

Brigadier-General Bohhy Floyd and other officers emphasised, however, that a definitive reason for the crash could not be determined until after a formal investigation.

fighter exploded after colliding with a C-130 Hercules transport carrier, raining fiery de-hris that ignited a third grounded plane just as army paratroopers were about to board for a jump exercise. "Ohviously there was some

ing the thems: spreased on final apprentia just over the runway at the same time." Gen. Floyd said Thursday during an interview with ABC Television's Good Morning

Asked whether he was link-

23rd Wing chief of safety stainterview.

An investigative team outside of the unit involved is formed whenever mishaps involve serious injury or death, or substantial monetary loss.

computer simulations would determine which carrier struck first and the exact angle of impact, Col. Williams said. He led an interim investiga-

tive team responsible for collecting evidence to hand over to the ontside team. Investigators have taken

He would not comment on any of the date gathered.
"Anything 1 would tell you would be... speculating... 1

don't know what the status of radios on the aircraft was. I don't know if the engines were running correctly. I'm not sure of the conversations that went on with all the different control agencies. There are so many aspects."

The F-16D had been practicing patterns and landings while the C-130 was returning from a jump exercise at the time of the collision. The two-man crew in the fighter plane successfully ejected and C-130, which typically has a crew of five, managed to land safely. The grounded C-141 starlif-

ter was said to hold np to 10,0000 gallous of fuel, but officials were unsure whether the plane was filled or just had enough for the exercise. Fort Bragg information offi-

cials had only released the names of two of the dead, Captain Kenneth Golla of Chicago and Sergeant Mark Gibson of Eagle River, Alaska were members of 82nd Airborne Division. One of the top contingency groups called into battle at a moment's notice.

# Catacomb found after building floor collapses

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ROME (AP) - Workers repairing the collapsed floor of a basement stumbled on a piece of Rome's suhterranean history: A catacomb, replete with skulls and bones. The Christian burial chamber, estimated to have originated from the third or fourth century, contains about 200 metres of corridors and lies ahout 10-12 metres underground, officials said. A Vatican archaeologist. Fabrizio Bisconti, inspected the area Thursday. The 2metre wide (6.6-foot) hole opened up two days earlier during reconstruction work on a building on Via Latina, near the famed Appian Way in an area rich in archaeological remains. Firefighters evacuated about 100 residents from the building. Mr. Bisconti said the harren corridors were lined with sealed burial nicbes, typical of public catacombs of the period, according to the Italian News Agency (ANSA). Some of the burial niches appeared to have heen violated, probably during the early Barbarian invasions of Rome or around 1600, when the bones of martyrs were removed to be revered as relics, he said. Rome has bundreds of miles (kilometres) of ancient catacombs. Burial inside the ancient imperial city was banned, so the early Christians interred bodies in underground chambers ontside the city.

### 4 legged sea traveller makes it from Talwan to U.S.

(AP) — The cargo container that arrived from Taiwan had one import too many. A scrawny, hlue-eved cat travelled about 9,600 kilometres (6,000 ' miles) and spent more than three weeks at sea in a chilly corner of a container shipped to a Mount Vernon warhouse. The hlack cat was christened Hanjin for the name of the Koroan shipping line painted in huge white letters on the container's side. The cat was found Sunday by Steve Wells, who owns Mobile Merchandisers Inc., when he opened the steel box to unload a shipment of display stands. "All of a sudden, it was up there staring at me," Mr. Wells said. "I said, 'what do we have here?" Mr. Wells fed the frightened animal a bit of dried doughnut and water. He closed up the container and returned Monday with cat food. Hanjin grabbed a few hites, then stole farther hack into the container. Warehouse Manager Bob Stickle carefully emptied the container box by box to expose the cat's hiding place. "She's doing OK so far," said Mary Emmett, a veterinary techni-cian. "I'm surprised she's doing so well. Poor little thing.

# Antarctic

kies, which are being removed from the frozen continent they helped explore, are returning home to their ancestral habitat in the Arctic. Seven sled dogs left bere Thursday for Hudson Bay, from where they will mush 373 miles (600 kilometres) north of their final destination. The Inuit village of Innkjuak, said members of an international mission called "home for the Huskies." Their odyssey has taken them from Antarctica to the Falkland Islands on a Royal Air Force transport plane and to Boston via London on a British Airways jet. The Huskies, direct decendents of dog teams taken to Antarctica from Labrador and Greenland 50 years ago, are being removed because their continued presence is thought to pose a threat to the continent's fragile ecology. The Antarctic treaty countries agreed in an environmental protocol in 1992 that all nonindigenous species of animals had to he removed hy April this year. The British Antarctic Survey, owners of the last remaining dog teams, agreed to give the Huskies to an Eskimo (Innit) community to help keep their traditional way of life alive. The purebread dogs will strengthen the diminishing gene pool of Eskimo Huskies and help preserve an age-old form of arctic transport that has been undermined by the snowmobile, members of the expedition said.

# new cabinet

# French oil companies

A reported. He Baghdad and

porate on the

# Martinez refuses to be upset victim in Houston

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — Top seed Conchita Martinez refused to become the latest upset victim at the \$400,000 Virginia Slims of Houston Thursday when she beat fellow Spaniard Angeles Montolio in the quarter-finals.

Martinez, one of only three seeds remaining, rebounded from a 2-0 deficit, then lost only two more games for a 6-3 6-1 victory.

Montoho, a qualifier, had stunned fifth seed Lindsay Davenport in the second round Wednesday, a day on which second seed Martina Navratilova and third seed Magdalena Maleeva were also upset by qualifiers.

"It just depends on how you're playing that day and on your opponent," Martinez said about all the upsets. "I like a clay court. I know I play my

best on this surface. Martinez, the defending champion, has not lost a set here. Against Montolio she played an aggressive game. mixing her devastating ground strokes with some well-timed Martinez came into the net

only 13 times, but won nine of those points. "I tried to be aggressive, but

it was difficult because she was putting topspin on the ball," Martinez said. "I had to play high balls, and wait a moment for my forehand."

The 18-year-old Montolio who has a compact body and powerful style similar to world number two Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, also of Spain - made 35 unforced errors in her first WTA tour event.

Asa Carlsson of Sweden, a wild card entrant, defeated Germany's Wiltrud Probst 6-4 6-3 and American Sandra Cacie beat Meike Babel of Germany 7-5 4-6 6-2 in secondround matches. Cacic is the only region left in the field.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

# Lazio deny Gascolgne is for sale

ROME (R) - Lazio Friday denied a British newspaper report that they want to sell their England midfielder Paul Gascoigne. "Lazio have no intention of selling Paul Gascoigne... 1 don't know where this story has come from but it is simply not true," clnh spokesman Mario Pennachia said. The Londoo daily the Snn reported that Gascoigne was now on the market for an asking price of \$5.7 million. It claimed Gascoigne's agent Len Lazarus was in Rome Wednesday and Thursday to negotiate the player's transfer. Pennachia said: "Lazarus was in Rome for a rontine visit which he brought forward because of the recent fuss about Gascoigne." Lazio President Sergio Cragnotti Sunday implied the Roman club might be losing patience with the player following a series of injury and disciplinary problems. Last week, Lazio fined Gascoigne some \$11,000 for a series of petty disciplinary infringements such as reporting back late for training and leaving training early without permission.

## Horse runs 'blind' for a mile

DONCASTER, England (R) — A raceborse, blinded by a hood around its head, bolted and ran loose for a mile at Doncaster Thursday, Star Performer narrowly missed a tree and crashed through several plastic rails before tumbling to the ground and freeing the hood. "It was a sickening incident - it turned my stomach. The horse could easily have gone galloping over people and it is only luck than no-one was hurt," said senior trainer Barry Hills. Star Performer had unshipped his jockey Willie Ryan after stall handlers had tried to load him before the start of a handicap race. The gelding badly cut his elbow.

# Atlanta unveils model of Olympic caldron

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta's Olympic organisers Thursday unveiled a model of the caldron that will hold the Olympic flame during the 1996 summer games, along with the 35-metre foot tower that will support it. The project, designed by sculptor Siah Armajani, also includes a 57-metre bridge connecting the tower with the Olympic stadium. During the opening ceremonies, the torch-bearing runner or runners will enter the stadium, cross the hridge and climh several flights of stairs to light the caldron on top.

# **GOREN BRIDGE**

& TANNAH HIRSCH

WHY GUESS? TAKE THE SURE WAY

AAQ3 VA52 0 K J 10 4 EAST WEST ♥ Q 10 7 69868 ♣ A K Q 10 7 6 SOUTH

NORTH

♠ K J 10 8 4 VK3 West North East South

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of The two-way finesse is the bane of the average bridge player, who considers it a pure guess and more often than not goes wrong. The expert, however, revels in the situation pert, however, revels in the situation and will ferret out as many clues as an and will ferret out as many clues as the problem. possible to resolve the problem.

The auction was straightforward.

East's interference did nothing to stop North-South from reaching ing four-odd.

Neither vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH

West led the singleton club and East quickly took three tricks in the suit to complete the defensive book. Since there was no possibility of a trump promotion, East exited with e trump.

Declarer was solid everywhere ex cept diamonds. Obviously, the fi-nesse could be taken either way. Should declarer play East, the over caller, for the queen or, since East had long clubs, presume West had long diamonds and, therefore, was a favorite to hold the queen?

There are those who might try to invoke the aid of the Almighty, but we have found that divine inspiration is not always comforting in cases like this. Declarer found a bet-

After drawing trumps in three

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# shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

# Russians slip and slide to world ice dance gold

CHIBA, Japan (AFP) — A spectacular fall failed to stop the emerging Russian team of Oksana Gritschuk and Evgeny Platov from adding the world ice dancing title to their gold medal from the Lillehammer

Platov slipped and slid while dancing to "Rock Around The Clock" in the early part of the four-minute free dance at the World Figure Skating Championships here.

But the 26-year-old Moscow student sprang back up to resume rocking and rolling, slowed down to a hluesy tune and came back to the rock number to earn top marks from seven of the nine judges. Technical points ranged from 5.5 to 5.8 out of a possi-hle six for the couple, third at the 1992 championships and second last year, while they earned five 5.9's and four 5.8's

for artistic impression. The French team of Sophie Moniotte and Pascal Lavanchy, fifth at the Lillehammer Winter Olympics, took the silver medal although two judges placed them above the Russian team in the free dance, which accounted for a half the total

The bronze went to Finland's Susanna Rahkamo and Petri Kokko, fourth at the Olympics.

The top three order remained unchanged throughout the three stages of the ice dancing event — the compulsory dances, the original programme and the free dance. Another Russian team of Maia Usova and Alexander

Zhulin, who won the silver at Lillehammer, stayed home. Britain's Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean retired from competition this year after win-

ning the Olympic bronze.

Meanwhile, Japan's Yuka
Sato edged ont Surya Bonaly
of France in the technical programme Friday to lead the depleted women's competition. Canada's Josee Chouinard. ninth at the Lillehammer

Olympics, was third. Sato, a 21-year-old Tokyo student, fourth last year and fifth at the Lillehammer Olympics, produced a difficult combination of a triple Lutz and a double toe loop, a double axel and a double flip.

Bonaly, 20, landed the same combination and immos and topped off her programme with her signature Biellmann

Sato and Bonaly were each given top places by four of the nine judges while another judge, a Canadian, ruled chouinard was the best in the

Sato came out on top because five indges placed her in second spot while two judges place Bonaly in second.

Olympie bronze medallist Chen Lu of China, who pulled out of the championships Friday due to a serious stress fracture of her right ankle, said she would have endured the pain if she had been taking part in the Olympics.

The women's contest had already been shunned by defending champion Oksana Baiul of Ukraine, who won the gold at Lillehammer, and runner-up Nancy Kerrigan of the United States.

# Sonics beat Suns; Knicks clinch playoff spot

SEATTLE, Washington (R)

— Detlef Schrempf scored a season-high 27 points as the Seattle Supersonics beat the Phoenix Suns 116-106 Thursday in a battle between this year's best of the West and last

Gary Payton added 21 points and Shawn Kemp 18 for Seattle, which won for the 12th time in its last 15 games and improved to an NBA-best 49-

. Charles Barkley had 25 points and 10 rebounds to lead the 43-23 Suns, last season's Western Conference champions who lost for only the third time in their last nine Seattle empted for 41

second-quarter points and led

78-55 at the half. The Sonics

shot 71 per cent from the field in the first half, connecting on. 36-of-51 attempts. Seattle led by as many as 27 for their last six games."

points with 9.07 left in the third In Sacramento, Da quarter, then held on as Phoenix came as close as 105-

'99 with 4:00 remaining - hut At Minnesota, Hnbert Davis, starting in place of the injured John Starks, pumped in a career-high 32 points as the New York Knicks won their 11th straight game and clinched a playoff berth, downing the Timberwolves 123-106. The Knicks joined Atlanta

with a telephona.

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as the only teams to clinch playoff spots in the Eastern

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 15 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter and finished with 11 rebounds and six blocks to lead the Rockets to a 113-107 win over the Lakers in Los Angeles'

the Lakers dropped a full six games behind Denver for the final Western Conference playoff berth.

113-101.

Knicks.

Johnson hit a driving layup

Chris Mnllin and Latrell Sprewell each scored 25 points

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tion. After that period, a JD 50 per day storage fee

All items are sold on a "where-is, as-is, non-

Bids must be submitted at the warehouse.

Wednesday, March 30, 1994.

Location: Warehouse near 7th Circle.

final game before Magic Johnson takes over a head coach, Assistant Bill Bertka served as head coach in Los Angeles' win at Dallas Wednesday and Thursday's loss to Houston as

In Denver, Mahmoud Abdul Rauf scored 25 points before joining the other starters on the bench as the Nnggets cruised past the Miami Heat

The Nuggets have won five In Sacramento, David Robinson had 38 points, nine rebounds, six blocks and five assists to lift the San Antonio

At Golden State, Avery with six seconds remaining to lift the Warriors to a 114-112 trinmph over the Milwaukee

and Chris Webber added 21 for the Warriors, who won their third straight game and 10th in a row at home.

At Washington, Dee Brown scored seven of his career-high 38 points in overtime, leading the Boston Celtics to a 123-117 victory over the Bullets.

Brown, who played 52 of a possible 53 minutes, was 15-of-26 from the field, including 3-of-3 from 3-point range, and 5-of-6 from the line.

Dino Radja added 20 points for Boston, which snapped its six-game losing streak and won for only the third time in its last

Washington lost for the seventh straight time.

IN THE

SEAT?

# Bustami wins his 2 role with Iraq's Oil of place recently in the did that major U.S., Okifax National Rally A reported. He Baghdad and

By Roufan Nahhas Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Jordanian rally driver Bashar Bustami confidently drove his Ford Sierra Cosworth to the finish line early Friday, to retain his title as champion of the Okifax National Rally, the first of the season's events organised hy the Royal Automobile Cluh of Jordan (RACJ). Bustami and co-driver

Malek Harirri took the leading position of the rally with a time of one hour, 21 minutes and 23 seconds.

Amjad Farah and co-driver Faisal Sadoon came in second in their Toyota Corolla with a time of one hour 21 minutes 36 seconds.

Th third place was won hy Mahmoud Qumog and codriver Monnes Madani in a Ford Sierra Cosworth with a time of one hour, 23 minutes, 3 seconds.

Only 11 drivers ont of 24 starters reached the finish line. The first car started at 4:15 p.m. Thursday and the winner crossed the finish line at 1:10 a.m. Friday. An extra stage was added

kilometre rally to make it more challenging to competi-

tor at RACJ. In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Mehiar said that the rally was a success and everything went

hy RACJ to the rally. The new 4.96-kilometre river stage near the King Talal Dam was added to the 341-

The only accident occurred when a Ford Fiesta XR2i driven hy Firas Khazar and co-driver Firas Bani Hani overturned at the Kufr Khai stage, the last special stage of the first leg which forced them to quit the rally. In addition, other mechanical problems faced several drivers, according to Waleed Mehiar, car racing coordina-

smoothly.

"Spectators were cooperarive and we did not face any problem," he said. On the RACJ schedule

next will be the Al Mustakhal Club Charity Rally Tour which will be held April 8. Following are the final standings of the Okifax National Rally:

1. Bashar Bustami and Malek

2. Amjad Farah Lits August Sadoon 3. Mahmoud Qum'n areas

Mounes Madani 4. Ahmad Al Daoug, Mahmoud Metwalli 5. Issa Halabi and Lou-Halabi 6. Ammar Hijazi and Salai Subeimat 7. Faris Bustami and Ehab

Shourafa g. Mohammad Juma and Emad Juma 9. Saleh Al Baba and Nabil Al Kurdi 10. Asem Aref and Ramzi

Mansour 11. Jehad Haku and Amiad Ghazal



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Or. Marwan Al Akaidi will be visiting Jordan. He will be available to answer your enquiries at the British Council from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The following days: Saturday 26, Monday 28, Wednesday 30, Thursday 31 March 1994. The British Council, Jabai Amman.

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# Nearly 2 million fighters on alert in Korean peninsula

SEOUL (R) — More than 1.7 million armed forces personnel were on alert on the Korean peninsula on Friday as international efforts continued to curb the communist North's nuclear

"North Korea has recently put its troops on alert," South Korean Information Minister Oh In-Hwan said at the end of a special meeting of securityrelated cabinet ministers. The isolated stalinist state

keeps 1.030,000 men and women under arms. South Korea, living in the shadow of North Korea's mas-

sive military machine, put its 650,000-strong standing armed forces, aided by 36,000 American troops, on special alert on Wednesday after Pyongyang warned of war. North Korea has threatened

to withdraw from the nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty if the Security Council imposes sanctions for its refusal to submit to full international inspections of its nuclear facilities. Pyongyang is adamant in its

refusal to cooperate and said on Friday that economic sanctions could not force it to change its mind.

North Korea's official news agency said the country had the industrial capacity to supp-ly its own development, defence and everyday needs.

"With the development of chemical industry, light indus-try, fisheries and agriculture the need for the people's living is being met with domestic products." the agency said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanon: Christopher might tour Mideast

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said after talks with a U.S. envoy in Beirut on Friday that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher might tour the Middle

East before the next round of Arab-Israeli peace talks. U.S.

Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs Robert Bellet-

reau made a previously unannounced visit to Beirut where he

said he held "useful and productive" talks with Mr. Bouez on

regional issues and bilateral relations. Mr. Belletreau said he

agreed with Mr. Bouez on "the importance of achieving progress in 1994" in the Middle East peace talks. Mr. Bouez

said the United States wanted to give a new push to the peace process, saying this may require additional diplomacy by Mr.

COLOMBO (AFP) - Sri Lanka President Dingiri Banda

Wijetunga suffered a humiliating defeat on Friday as the

opposition won a key local poll seen by analysts here as setting

the trend for future elections. The opposition People's

Alliance (PA), led by former Premier Sirima Bandaranaike,

polled 550,512 votes to stage a dramatic comeback at

Thursday's election to win 32 seats in the 55-member southern

provincial council. Mr. Wijetunga's United National Party

(UNP) fared poorly to take the balance of 23 seats after

polling 443,423 votes in the ballot conducted under a

'House-of-horrors' wife demands damages

GLOUCESTER, England (AFP) - The wife of a man

charged with murdering nine women said Friday she would

seck compensation from police who demolished ber house

searching for bodies. "She has lost her house and will be koking for compensation." said Leo Goatley, lawyer for

Rosemary West, Her husband, Frederick West, a 52-year-old

huilder, is charged with nine counts of murder after the

temains of women and young girls were recovered from their house and garden at its now infamous address, 25 Cromwell

Street. Ms. West was arrested along with her husband a month

ago, but released soon afterward without charge. Police

digging in the garden, basement, floors and walls of the

timee-storey house has weakened the structure and required

the pouring of tonnes of concrete to shore up the structure

against vollapse. Mr. Goatley said that, irrespective of any

compensation she might receive, Ms. West was unlikely ever

to move back to the house, dubbed the "house of horrors"

since the recovery of buman remains turned it and the

SAFFRON WALDEN, Britain (AFP) - Former Labour

Party leader Neil Kinnock had his driving licence withdrawn

for a week Friday after being found guilty of speeding. Mr.

Kinnock, 51, who resigned the Labour leadership when his

party was defeated in the spring 1992 general elections, was

logged travelling at 160 kilometres an hour in a 100-

kilometres-an-hour zone, a court in this southern town heard.

The cours also fined Mr. Kinnock £140 pounds (\$210) and £25

(357) in costs. It was his second speeding offence in the last

israeli deputy minister to visit India

Neil Kinnock convicted of speeding

Wijetunga suffers major debacle

proportional representation system.

neighbourhood into a media circus.

titree months.

The Korean people have the mighty socialist independent national economy and abundant resources enough to live on their own efforts under any situation," it said. "No political and ideological offensive, economic blockade and military threat of the imperialists and reactionaries can frighten the Korean people."

The United States and South Korea have reactivated plans for huge military manoeuvres that had been cancelled to lure the north into permitting inspections of its nuclear facili-

Washington was also sending Patriot air defence missiles to South Korea as the U.N. Security Council worked on a resolution urging Pyongyang to let U.N. inspectors complete their checks.

Seoul and Washington decided on the moves after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) — the U.N. nuclear watchdog, which has vainly sought unimpeded access to North Korea's nuclear sites --referred the issue to the Security Council for possible punitive action.

The chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency, (IAEA), Hans Blix, told a meeting of the U.N. Security Council that North Korea was certainly hiding more pluto-nium than it had declared. Plutonium is a vital ingredient of a nuclear bomb.

But Mr. Blix said he could not state whether a bomb was actually being produced, adding that there was no evidence North Korea had the technology to make warheads.

The IAEA alleged last week that an inspection team recently sent to North Korea bad been barred from taking samples at one key nuclear site, dashing prospects of giving Pyongyang a clean bill of nuc-lear health.

Council members were consulting privately on a draft resolution urging North Korea to permit unrestricted inspection. A vote is expected next week.

There was no move to im-

pose economic sanctions immediately. The resolution savs only that the council would consider further unspecified action, if necessary. Seoul on Friday reacted

coolly to a Russian proposal to hold an international conference on the nuclear issue, saying the United Nations was the most appropriate forum to resolve the matter.

South Korean President Kim Young-Sam was scheduled to travel from Japan to China on Saturday seeking support for a diplomatic solution. China, still a powerful ally of

North Korea, has said it does not feel the Security Council is the appropriate place to handle the issue and that international efforts to mediate the dispute should continue.

It has not said whether or not it would use its security council veto to block moves against North Korea.

North Korea got support from an unlikely source when Philippine President Fidel Ramos said it would be premature to impose sanctions against North Korea.

Mr. Ramos fought with U.N. forces as a Philippine army Lieutenant in he 1950-53 Korean war.

# German synagogue

LUEBECK, Germany (Agencies) - Suspected rightwingers firebombed a synagogue early Friday, sbocking the Jewish

port city caused no injuries but charred two front rooms laid out for what was to have been the first Passover seder at the Luebeck synagogue since the

In an unusual step, the chief arrests, state prosecutor Heribert Ostendorf said.

murder, it's a symbolic attack on the Jewisb people, an effort to continue the Nazi annihilation," Mr. Ostendorf said.

Right-wing militants were the main suspects, and were being questioned, Mr. Ostendorf said but extremist Arab groups could not be ruled out. Police found an unused Molotov cocktail at the scene of the fire, said investigator

Officials at the central council of Jews in Germany said they could not find any record of an arson attack against a

david on its facade. "The German government is shocked by this attack and sharply condemns it," said government spokesman Dieter Vogel, who told journalists that Chancellor Helmut Kohl,

"We Christians canuot stay quiet like in 1938. When synagogues burn, churches will

1938, was preparing to bold on Saturday evening its first pastallnacht."



# Last American soldiers scramble out of Somalia

MOGADISHU (Agencies) -The last U.S. troops disappeared in a cloud of dust Friday as they quit Somalia without fanfare after a heavilycriticised 15-month interven-

Marines and soldiers left quietly from the same beach where they landed on Dec. 9, 1992 in the glare of television lights to end a famine that killed at least 300,000 people.

U.S. commander Major-General Thomas Montgomery called the mission 'a great success," despite the killings of nearly 100 peacekeepers, including 30 Americans, and controversy over heavyhanded tactics that cost the

lives of hundreds of Somalis. Gen. Montgomery insisted that the withdrawal, dubbed 'Operation Quickdraw," was not a retreat.

President Bill Clinton ordered the troops home after warlord Mohammad Farab Aideed's gunmen killed 18 Americans in a maze of sandy Mogadishu alleys on Oct. 3. We are very proud of what

we have done here," said Gen. Montgomery, who flew back to Mogadishu airport by helicop-ter from a U.S. warship to address reports. "We know that we are the best of the

The last Marines rumbled across Mogadishu airport in amphibious assault vehicles crossed the beach and vanished into the azure waters of the Indian ocean in a plume of spray and sand.

(Continued from page 1)

Officials said Minister of

State for Foreign Affairs Talal

Al Hassan, who accompanied

the King on the visits, was

scheduled to brief the Cabinet

during its regular session on

King Hussein, in comments

carried by the Jordan News

Agency, Petra, after his re-

turn, said his Gulf visits served

as a good opportunity for an

exchange of views on various

international and regional

issues and the latest develop-

ments in the Arab-Israeli

The King described Jordan's

relations with Oman and Qatar

as excellent and based on solid

The King said the Arab Na-

tion was facing "decisive chal-

lenges that demand that Arab

leaders launch collective action

to confront the challenges and serve Arab interests." He said

both Sultan Qaboos and

Sheikh Khalifa were working

The King said the political

crisis in Yemeu, where Jordan

and Oman are involved in

efforts to end the rift between

southern and northern leaders,

was a topic for discussions with

"What Jordan is trying to

achieve in Yemen is part of

Jordan's duty towards Ye-

the principle of foreign obser-

vers but he wanted to make

sure that it will be a prelude

to international protection

for Palestinians across the

occupied West Bank and

The officials said that

Israel had stipulated that

light arms will be confined to

pistois only --- something that

seems to satisfy the PLO

leadership's demands at this

But what PLO leaders

seem to fear the most is for

Israel to use the siege on

Hebron as bargaining chip to

pressure Hebronites and the

to serve such interests.

Sultan Qaboos.

men," he said.

Gaza Strip.

point.

Saturday.

peace process.

foundations.

the haze as they waited offshore to take the troops on the first leg of the long journey As Howitzers and armoured

Grey warships shimmered in

vebicles rolled aboard hovercraft on the beach, 15 helicopters that once patrolled the sky and pounded positions of General Aideed took off in formation in a gigantic dustcloud.

Exit day, or E-Day, got under way when a lumbering C5 Galaxy transport plane roared into the sky.

Three hours later, the last amphibious vehicle left Somali soil, watched by about 100 sweaty reporters coated with sunscreen. Hordes of watching Somalis

swarmed over piles of rubbish strewn over the city's sandy beaches. Pakistani troops, part of a 20,000-strong U.N. army left

to deal with the turmoil of a

country ruled by gunmen, looked on but did not inter-At the main entrance to the airport first fights broke out as

Egyptian peacekeepers tried to keep crowds of excited onlookers rusbing into the compound. Harrier jets screamed across the hroken city. "Just in case anyone has any

ideas, we want to remind them we still bave a potent force out there," U.S. military spokesman Colonel Steve Rausch

The Americans leave behind a blighted country with no government, bedevilled hy

Referring to the persisting

dispute between northern and

southern Yemeni leaders de-

spite the signing of a recon-

ciliation and reform agreement

in Amman on Feb. 20, the

King said: "We were surprised

by the disturbing develop-

ments in Yemen (after the

signing) and therefore a

Jordanian-Omani delegation

visited Yemen and settled the

dispute between our Yemeni

dan was seeking an American explanation to the U.S. absten-

tion from voting on parts of the

March 18 U.N. Security Coun-

cil resolution on the Feb. 25

massacre in Hehron. The ab-

stention, on references to Jeru-

salem as occupied territory and

the overall status of the occu-

pied Palestinian lands, was jus-

tified by the U.S. by saying

that Washington did not want

to take sides to the couflict at a

time when Israel and the

Palestinians have decided to

discuss the issue as part of their

negotiations launched by the

Security Council resolutions

issued since 1967 on the Arab-

Israeli conflict considered

Jerusalem as part of the Israeli-

occupied territories. He said

Jordan was trying to get an

assurance that the position bas

He said the U.S. had hinted

not changed.

The King said all U.N.

Sept. 13 autonomy accord.

The King restated that Jor-

brothers."

King 'satisfied' with Oman, Qatar visits

banditry and ravaged by cholera.

Gen. Montgomery, 52, pointed to the signing of a peace pact in the Kenyan capit-al Nairoi on Thursday between rival Gen. Aideed and his rival Ali Mahdi Mohammad.

U.S. Special Ambassador to Somalia Robert Oakley, sent by Mr. Clinton to try and broker a deal with Gen. Aideed, admitted on Friday the mission had lost its direction.

"There was a period when I think the United States and the United Nations were both off course. Sometimes you do make mistakes. You have to learn from them and move ahead," he said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Independent analysts fear Somalia may slide back into civil war without the support of American and other Western contingents who have already

The remaining U.N. force, made up of African and Asian contingents, is less well-equipped. Its mandate is limited to protecting food convoys and guarding key installa-tions, like the port and airport.

and a reconciliation conference in the capital on May 15.

Gen. Aideed and Mr. Ali Mahdi, whose power struggle destroyed Mogadishu after the January 1991 overthrow of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre. have agreed to hold more talks Several previous accords

quickly disintegrated.

several years ago that if the

issue of Jerusalem was to be

raised at the U.N., it would

adopt the same position as it

did during the March 18 voting

- a veto if the resolution

contained a reference to Jeru-

salem in its operative para-

graphs or abstention if the re-

ference was in the preamble.

In comments to the Qatari

press before be left Doha ear-

lier Thursday, the King said his

visit to Qatar was aimed at

He said Sheikh Khalifa

sbared his desire for an Arab

summit. "We always boped for

such a summit, where all Arab

leaders could have a frank ex-

change of views on their preoc-

Arab League last met in Cairo

shortly after the August 1990

Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. But,

instead of adopting a collective

stand towards the crisis they

split into two camps; one that

supported a military solution

and the other which advocated

dialogues and diplomacy to-

wards a solution within the

Efforts to convene an Arab

summit since then have failed,

and the polarisation has spread

Qatar has increasingly been

increasing adopting indepen-

dent decisions, away from the

influence of other Gulf states

regardless of their alliance in a

to bilateral relations.

Leaders of the 22-member

cupations."

Arab context.

achieving Arab sobdarity.

# Saguy: Syria is ready for Diana goes on skiing holiday

LECH, Austria (AP) — After

a three-month self-imposed ex-

ile, Princess Diana braved the

cameras Thursday, her first

day of a week-long skiing holi-

day. She seemed at ease with

the close attention of the

media. More than 40 photo-

graphers from across Europe

waited to snap her when she emerged with Princes William,

11, and Harry, 9, from their five-star hotel in Lech. Prin-

cess Diana has carried out only

one public engagement this year, and her official diary is

empty following her announce

ment in December that she is

largely withdrawing from pub-

lic life. Wearing a turquoisd one-piece ski suit — the same

as she wore last year - the

princess stepped into her skis

and took a chairlift up the

mountains with her friends

Kate Menzies, 32, and Cather-

ine Soames, 36. Prince Wil-

liam, in a blue ski suit and

wonlly hat, and Prince Harry,

wearing a purple suit and ban-

dana, took the chairlift ahead

with their friend Harry

Soames, Catherine's 10-year-

old son, and their skiing friend

Harry Soames, Catherine's 10-

year-old son, and their skiing

Elizabeth Taylor

undergoes hip

full peace TEL AVIV (AP) — Syria is ready for full peace with Israel, the Israeli chief of military intelligence said in an interview published Friday, but President Hafez Al Assad first needs to hear Israel is ready for a full withdrawal from the

Golan Heights.

Major General Uri Saguy also told the Yediot Ahronot daily that Yasser Arafat's dream of statehood would "shatter" when he arrived in Jericho, but he added that he believed that the Palestinian leader was in control.

There is in Syria, now more than ever, an understanding that in return for full sovereignty over the Golan Heights, it will he asked for and, I think, it will agree peace with all its characteristics, including diplomatic relatious," Geu. Saguy told

Talks between Israel and the Syrians focus on the future of the strategic plateau, which Israel seized in the 1967 Mideast war

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said that he will not say how far Israel will with-draw until he hears Mr. Assad define the peace, which Israel sees as including full diplomatic relations and open borders. Mr. Rabin describes Mr. Assad's reluctance to do so as "disappointing."
But Gen, Saguy, who said

that Mr. Assad was aware of Israeli requirements, said: From his point of view, (Assad) has to believe he will receive the entire Golan Heights" before he defines the Gen. Saguy said that the

Syrian army was "formidable" and getting stronger, and that Syria still considered Israel its primary enemy. Mr. Arafat's dream of

being president of some state" would shatter once the implementation of the accord to introduce autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho became a reality, Gen. Saguy said.
"Arafat was never excep-

tional at day-to-day manage-ment," he said. "At this stage, he won't want to be mayor of Jericho."

Gen. Saguy said Mr. Arafat's position among Palestinians had weakened since the (Hebron) massacre.

six-country cooperation coun-

Jordan's effort to reconcile

with other members of the

Gulf Cooperation Council

(GCC) — Saudi Arahia, Bahrain, the United Arab

Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait

- have not borne fruit.

However, the UAE bas been

sending positive signals in re-

The King said Thursday his

talks with Sheikh Khalifa also

dealt with the Middle East

peace process, the suffering of

the Palestinians living under

Israeli occupation and efforts

to address their plight, particu-larly after the Hebron mas-

sacre, Jordan's efforts to pre-

serve and protect Islamic boly

shrines in Jerusalem and bis

own endeavours to restore the

Dome of the Rock Mosque in

The King said Sheikh Khali-

fa and Crown Prince Sheikh

Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani

bad accepted invitations to

visit lordan and that the Qatari

leaders would be making the

visit at their earliest possible

During his visit to Qatar, the

King also met with representa-

tives of the Jordanian com-

the Holy City.

sponse to Jordanian efforts.

King Fahd, met him.

nstructor.

surgery

LOS ANGELES (R) - Ac-. tress Elizabeth Taylor underwent hip replacement surgery as planned and the operation went smoothly, her doctor said. 'There were uo surgical complications," Doctor John Moreland said in a statement issued the day after surgery. The 62-year-old Oscar-winning actress underwent the operation after specialists diagnosed her with osteoarthritis of the left hip, a condition in which vital cartilage has worn out. Ms. Taylor's bad hip was aggravated when she slipped in the snow during a Swiss holiday earlier this year, and her condition worsened steadily until she could no longer walk without pain. Her publicist. announced in mid-January that she would need hip replacement surgery to correct the problem. Dr. Moreland said Ms. Taylor would likely remain in the hospital for a week. During the first eight weeks of recuperation, she is expected to use crutches or a walker. Full recovery normally takes three to six mouths, Dr. Moreland said. Ms. Taylor, best known for her roles in such films as Cleopatra, Who's, Afraid Of Virginia Woolf? and Cat On A Hot Tin Roof, bas a history of health problems. She' spent over two months in the; hospital in the spring of 1990: for treatment of viral pneumomia and at one point was reported to he near death. In 1983, Ms. Taylor entered the Betty Ford Clinic in southern California to overcome what she described as a dependency on alcobol and prescription drugs. There she met her current busband Larry Fortensky.

# Murder-case

PARIS (R) — A French court sentenced a 69-year-old grandmother to 15 years jail ifor hiring a gumman to kill her son-in-law, closing a sensational trial spiced with glamour, money and mystery. Marie-Elisabeth Cons-Boutboul was charged with being an accomplice in the 1985 murder of business lawyer Jacques Perrot, husband of her glamorous jockey daughter Darie Boutboul. Applause broke out in the court when the guilty verdict was read but the presiding judge immediately called for order. Mrs. Cons-Boutboul showed no emotion at the sentence hut her lawyer, Bernard Prevost, wept. Mr. Prevost had earlier told the court the 21day trial had not proved she had a motive to kill Mr. Perrot nor had it found any evidence linking her to the killing or even established with certainty who killed him, Prosecutor Jacques Monton had asked for a 16 to 18 year term. He said Mrs. Cons-Bontboul silenced Mr. Perror because he had discovered she had stashed away in Switzerland a fortune swindled from French missionaries and others, and she feared her extravagant lifestyle would be ruined if he spoke tip. Mrs. Cons-Boutboul, who has spent three years in prison

## The King visited Saudi Arabia in early March to perform a pilgrimage to Mecca, but no senior Saudi officials, including

# grandmother jailed for 15 years

awaiting trial, had denied any role in the killing.

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin is due to arrive here on April 1 on a four-day visit for talks with Indian leaders, the Israeli embassy said here Friday. Mr. Beilin's scheduled trip next month follows a groundhreaking visit to India last summer by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. The deputy foreign minister's visit will be the second by a top Israeli official since diplomatic links between New Delhi and Tel Aviv were reestablished in January 1992 after a 40-year hiatus.

# lilegal drug crops destroyed in Egypt

WADI FIRAN, Egypt (AP) — Police and soldiers destroyed about 1,000 acres of hashish and opium plants near Mount St. Catherine in Sinai, the largest anti-narcotics operation in Egypt's modern history. About 2,000 police and border guards, the country's largest force ever mobilised to eliminate contraband drugs, dumped chemicals on 18 plots where the crops were growing in mountainous terrain at Wadi Firan. The town, whose name translates into valley of the mice, is about 35 kilometres from the Greek Orthodox monastery at St. Catherine. The interior ministry, in charge of police, was in charge of the operation, which also involved the defence, oil and agriculture ministries. The oil ministry provided three helicopters, agriculture the chemicals.

# firebombed

community and prompting a quick government reaction. The attack in the northern

federal prosecutor took over the case. Authorities offered a 50,000 marks (\$30,000) reward for information leading to

"This is not only attempted

Guenter Moeller.

Lucheck is only 20 kilometres north of Moelln. where a November 1992 firebombing killed three Turks. Two neo-Nazis were sentenced to long prison terms.

synagogue in Germany since the 1938 "kristallnacht" that

presaged World War II. Nazi supporters looted more than 7,000 Jewish shops and burnt down hundreds of synagogues on the the night of Nov. 9, 1938, which became known as "kristallnacht" (crystal night) because of the smashed glass that littered the streets. About 200 students with banners condemning the attack marched at midday to the synagogue, a four-storey brick hnilding with a large star of

now on Easter vacation in Austria, had been informed.

Local Christian churches also expressed their shock and disgust at the attack and added in a joint statement: "This crime was aimed at a community that was trying to rebuild itself after the destruction of the Nazi era."

burn too." The synagogue, which has not been used for services since PLO wants large observer unit in Hebron (Continued from page 1) Palestinians to drop other demands concerning the settlers

and the settlements. Criticis of Mr. Arafat argue that he bas not beld out long enough to make Israel budge, and that if be does not take a firm stand, lifting the curiew on Hebron will be used by Israel to extract Palestinian concessions.

Furthermore, the 20-hour siege of Hebron last week, when the Israeli army blasted a hideout for Hamas members and destroyed or damaged neighbouring houses in the process, has presented the PLO with a challenge of how secure protection of Palestinians against Israel

army clampdowns. A United Nations Security Council resolution passed two weeks ago, reaffirmed rbe applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention,

that practically hans at occupying power from conducting such clampdowns on people under occupation, on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including East Jerusalem

> It was unclear so far, based on contacts with PLO officials in Tunis, whether the tentatively agreed upon deployment of foreign observers will be authorised to prevent Israeli violations of the Geneva convention.

# U.S. stand **'unchanged'**

munity living there.

(Continued from page I)issue of Jerusalem.

Following is the official transcript of the reporter's question and the president's answer dealing with Jerusalem; Question: Mr. President, what did you tell the American Jewisb leaders today about a status of a united Jerusalem?

Mr. Clinton: I told them that the position — I told them what I've always told you in public. I'll tell you the exact words I used: I said, my position has not changed on that

Jo to Ana peac

Golar

FEL AV Israel and Israeli and

volume

AMMAN strongly p inued in during a reby U.S. coordinato formation Anani sak -Jordan mistration i ships and t of the arri me Jordan

Anani said lowing a r on. Dr. Ana ter Abdul : the minist with Mr. Wednesda In the Jordanianprime min question (

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